



# Alabama <sup>Corner 7-29-39</sup> Negrophobes Forming 'Council Of Accepted Americans'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 27 — (ANP)—Reliable sources here this week reported that an organization known as the "Alabama Council of Accepted Americans" is being formed, with strong, anti-Negro tenets, based on the council rule that all non-whites are "un-accepted American."

Reported goal of the council is 25,000 Alabama members, each paying a fee of \$7.50 which, they claim, will soon be reached. They deny affiliation with any political party, disavow the practices and objectives of the Ku Klux Klan, and are said to be against all "isms" except Americanism. Informants say they welcome Jews, Gentiles and Catholics—anyone "provided he is white."

Attalla, Ala.

Press  
Oct. 27, 1959

## Attalla Negro Receives K K K Warning Note

John Davis Jr., young Attalla Negro barber last week received a warning note signed KKK. Davis, it was said, recently purchased a house and lot on North Fourth Street near the Holiness Church. After the purchase had been made, Davis was planning to move into his newly acquired house but changed his mind after he awoke one morning and found a note pinned to the door of his present home.

The note warned Davis not to move into the house as it was in a district restricted to white people only, and was signed K. K. K. Davis. It was said, took the note to police officials, but Chief Melton would not comment on the case.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

ARKANSAS

**Jails Negroes**  
~~Philadelphia Tribune~~  
**For Imitating**  
~~Philadelphia, Pa.~~  
**Ku Klux Klan**

3-23-39

**Sentence Night Riders**  
**Trio, Who Rode Dur-**  
**ing Cotton Strike**

LITTLE ROCK, Mar. (ANP)—A state statute against night riding, aimed originally at such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, will result in jail sentences of one year each against three Negroes, Henry and Dan Johnson and Henry's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mollie B. Johnson, in connection with their activities during the cotton pickers' strike last fall called by the Southern Tenant Farmers union, the state supreme court decided Monday.

The three were convicted of putting written notices on plantation gates urging cotton pickers to strike for \$1 per 100 pounds instead of 40 to 85 cents they were then getting. Added was the scribbled wording, "stay out of the fields if you don't want to get into trouble." Authorities said this statement conveyed a threat bringing it within the limits of the night riding statute.

KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

D. C.

KLANSMAN NAMED FEDERAL  
JUDGE IN SPITE OF  
PROTESTS

WASHINGTON, D. C. --(ANP)

--Klansman Elmer D. Davis is now a federal judge despite the protest of many Negro organizations and the plea of Senator Warren Barbour of New Jersey.

When the name of Elmer D. Davis was first presented to the senate for confirmation as federal judge for the middle district of Tennessee, protests began pouring in declaring that Davies was a Klansman, had been unfair in his attitude toward labor and toward Negroes. Therefore, the senate was asked to withhold its confirmation pending an investigation of these charges. Should they have been proved true, Davies would stand little chance of being appointed or confirmed.

However, the nomination was confirmed on Wednesday and passed on the president, who hastily signed the nomination and issued a warrant declaring Davies the judge for the federal district.

President Roosevelt so advised the senate Thursday, declaring it was impossible to recall the warrant he had sent out.

7-29-39; Black Dispatch  
Oklahoma City, Okla.

KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

Asheville, N. C. Times  
May 2, 1939

## The Beam In Our Eye

**M**IAAMI, world known resort, now comes forward to supply totalitarian orators abroad with ammunition, made in the misdirected arsenals of a neo and pseudo Ku-Klux Klan, with which to snipe at American civilization.

A hundred white robed figures, says the dispatch, distributed cards in Miami's Negro section warning "respectable Negroes" not to vote in the municipal election. The cards were signed K. K. K.

How shall Americans, asserting that their country is one of tolerance and justice in all matters of law and citizenship, defend themselves from the cynical comments sure to be hurled at us by the Nazi and Fascist newspapers?

After pondering such a news report as this from Miami, how much steam can American editors and legislators generate in holding up to the victims of foreign ideologies the rich blessings enjoyed by minority races in America, land of the free?

Macon, Ga. News  
May 4, 1939

## EDITORIAL

### The Ghost Rides Again

In the land of waving palm fronds within a stone's throw of the azure waters of Biscayne bay, hangman's nooses, dangling effigies, fiery crosses and grim warnings placed Miami on notice that cruelty, hatred, and intolerance flared in its midst. Fifty automobile loads of cowards rode the streets of Miami Monday night in a vain attempt to frighten Negro voters away from the polls which opened Tuesday morning for a city primary.

Coming at a time when thinking people the world over have condemned without qualification those who rob human beings of their guaranteed rights, when the American government has protested vigorously oppression of nations or races; when the same terroristic practices beyond the two oceans which bound us have made us proud that we live in a land where it cannot happen, Tuesday's occurrences in Miami cause a stab of dismay to invade our feeling of democratic security on this side. How the Fascist and Nazi

press must be rejoicing today in their belief that after all the United States was only fooling; after all it believes in plunder, rapine and murder and the strongly worded diplomatic protests were simply assurances to soothe the democracies while this nation planned a program of internal viciousness on the despised Negroes.

How would President Roosevelt feel if Hitler offered refuge to the oppressed minority in Miami? Would it make us look too silly if Mussolini offered to take them under his wing and protect them in Abyssinia? It is not too much to say that we are in a sorry position to play big brother to the persecuted minorities of the world until we are able to exercise our own authority at home.

What can be done about it? The Constitution of the United States gives to all citizen, regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude, the right to vote. A statute of the United States found in the criminal code provides that if two or more persons conspire to deprive a citizen of the exercise of his civil rights they shall be guilty of a felony against the United States.

Not two but hundreds entered into a con-

FLORIDA

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch  
May 5, 1939

### The Klan Rides Again

**N**LAST Monday night, white-robed men in more than 50 automobiles with shielded licenses, drove through the Negro section of Miami, Fla., warning Negroes not to vote in Tuesday's election. The demonstrators in Ku-Klux Klan regalia burned 25 fiery crosses and an effigy bearing a card reading, "This Nigger Voted." The plain threat was that if Negroes were bold enough to vote in the next day's election, lynchings might follow.

Yet Negroes did vote, at a ratio 5 to 1 greater than ever before, at one large precinct where separate poll books and balloting machines were installed to avert possible disorders. The president of the Negro Service League said that the white-robed demonstrators had "inspired Negroes to vote." There was no serious disorder during the election.

A group of white men congregated near one Negro voting precinct, but after POLICE CHIEF H. LESLIE QUIGG had spoken to them, left the place quietly.

By a simple procedure, law and order had been insured. The Negro Service League had been told that its members would get protection on election day, and the promise was kept. Whatever the politics of this election happened to be, the Ku-Klux Klan was clearly off the reservation. Yet it was only five years ago, that the Klan had 1,600 men on duty as "special policemen" during an election in Tampa. The Klan was on the inside of the political organization of the office-holders in that election, in which JOSEPH SHOEMAKER and his "Modern Democrats" were trying to defeat the city machine. SHOEMAKER had been so troublesome that he was taken out a short time later and beaten so badly that he died of gangrene, nine days after he had been assaulted.

The police of Miami have afforded an excellent demonstration of how to check mob violence before it occurs. Apparently, the matter of motorists riding through the city with license shielded, was overlooked. But the police line held on election day. Where adequate protection is available, and the police are awake and vigilant, they can prevent lynching. But Florida police know how to go to sleep. On

Tallahassee jail, forced the sheriff and his deputies to turn two Negro youths over to them, and then staged a lynching four blocks from the capital of the State.

July 20, 1937, four men entered the

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont  
May 2, 1939

## Negroes Get Vote Warning

### Hooded Band Parades In Miami On Eve Of City Election

MIAMI, Fla., May 2.—(AP) — An effigy bearing the legend "this nigger voted" hung from a pole opposite a precinct polling-place today as a city primary election opened.

White-robed and capped men paraded in 75 automobiles through the negro section last night, burned 25 crosses and threw out red-lettered cards with "K.K.K." on them, warning negroes to stay away from the polls. A hangman's noose dangled from one of the cars.

"The Klan demonstration has really inspired the negro to vote," said Sam Solomon, president of the Negro Citizens Service league.

He estimated at least 1,500 negroes would cast ballots. The league appealed yesterday to City Clerk Frank J. Kelly for protection of negro voters from racial violence, mentioning "threats made by certain candidates."

Sanford, Fla. Herald  
May 6, 1939

Down in Miami the Ku Klux Klan dug out its old sheets from the moth balls and paraded in full might on the eve of a municipal election as a warning to negroes not to vote. Nevertheless, the next day the largest turn-out of negro votes in the history of Miami occurred. And today many Miamians are wondering what Colored People. The association made the negroes want to vote had asked United States Attorney General Murphy to prosecute members of the Florida Klan under section 20 of the Federal criminal code.

## Justice Dept. Probes Florida KKK Terror

### Daily Worker Attempt to Stop Negro Voting Brings Murphy Investigation

6-12-39  
The terrorist activities of the Florida Ku Klux Klan, which took place just prior to the recent elections held in Miami, when the Klan sought to intimidate Negro citizens in an effort to keep them from voting at the polls, is being investigated by the Department of Justice.

## MIAMI NEGROES VOTE, DEFYING KLAN THREAT

Went to Polls in Record Number,

Official Says

MIAMI, Fla., May 2 (AP).—Negroes ignored warnings issued during a spectacular demonstration by paraders in Ku Klux Klan regalia and cast a record vote today in a city primary election.

Frank J. Kelly, City Clerk, said Negroes voted at a ratio 5-to-1 greater than ever before at one large precinct where separate poll books and balloting machines were installed to avert possible disorders. Mr. Kelly said that more than 500 Negro votes were cast at that precinct alone, and estimated the previous record for a city election at "scarcely more than 160."

Police Chief H. Leslie Quigg, who assured the Negro Citizens Service League through Mr. Kelly yesterday that there would be no disorder, dispersed a rapidly growing group of white men opposite the Negro polling place today. The men left after a few words from Chief Quigg, who declined to disclose what he told them.

Last night's demonstration, in which white-robed men in more than fifty automobiles with shielded licenses paraded through the Negro section, followed an appeal by the Negro service league for protection against racial violence. The petition, presented to Mr. Kelly, referred to "threats made by certain candidates, apparently to intimidate qualified Negro citizens."

This section of the code provides a \$5,000 fine and imprisonment of not more than ten years for two or more persons who conspire to injure persons in exercise of civil rights." The section makes specific reference to persons who make use of a disguise to carry out their purposes of intimidating citizens in the exercise of their rights under the constitution.

Replying to the association's request the U. S. Attorney General's office said that the Department has requested a full report from its representatives in Miami.

Despite efforts of the Klan to intimidate Negro citizens by burning fiery crosses and showing lynch victims in effigy, more than 1,500 Negroes turned out to vote, under

the leadership of Samuel B. Solomon, a Negro undertaker living in Miami.

## AT LONG LAST

The Department of Justice informs the N. A. A. C. P. that an investigation of the Ku Klux Klan in Miami is now taking place.

It is certainly high time that the Department looked into the operations of this nefarious aggregation of masked mobbists.

The Miami Klan happens to be in most people's minds now because it recently sought with no success to prevent Negroes from voting in that city's primaries.

But the Ku Klux Klan has its klaverns in almost every city in the country—North and South—ready at every opportunity to spurt its venom of Negrophobic propaganda and, on occasion, to resort to overt acts.

It is a mystery that the Department of Justice has not squelched this organization long ere this, for its every precept is a violation of the Federal Constitution.

If this organization that is afraid to show its face had concentrated its attack on any other group in American life as it has on the Negro, it would have been outlawed long ago.

## Klansmen Stage Raid; Beat Negroes Found On Streets

### Women With Babes in Arms

### Set Upon, Beaten

1-26-39  
LIVE OAK, Fla.—(AP)—Chaos run by a Negro reputed to be an Klux regalia swooped down on this white backer to call a Klan raid little city on the banks of the Suwanee river, visited every Negro by Hopps so he could get all the business place, beat all the Negroes trade, they could and on the streets, then Commenting following the trouble invaded several white places before leaving town. Local police have white paper declared that "sidewalk loitering and profligacy,"

One of the victims was Prof. John L. Hopps, fraternal leader and grand master of the order of delivery boys for white stores when Archery, who was severely beaten they drive their trucks, cabs and His son, John Hopps, Jr., was or bicycles was probably back of the dered out of town and has left.

Although most of this terrorism occurred within one block of the police station, neither officers nor sheriff could be found while the Klan held sway. Even colored women with babies in their arms were set upon and beaten and since then most Negro citizens are going armed in anticipation of another raid.

Several white stores were damaged, among them one of the

Piggly Wiggly chain which has entered suit against the city to collect damages. Most of the white places visited were known as "jook joints," or small taverns.

It is believed this trouble was the aftermath of a new jook built in front of the Negro high school. It is financed by a white man and

Commenting following the trouble invaded several white places before leaving town. Local police have white paper declared that "sidewalk loitering and profligacy,"

rowdiness near white churches and insolence and recklessness of colored individuals to talk back to those facing them. And whoever may have been 'spanked' at white or colored jook joints deserved that punishment.

### Ku Klux Klan Up To Old Tricks; Parades In Negro Sections

ORLANDO, Fla.—Seeking to deliver a body blow to the ambitions of Negroes here to exercise their legal rights, the terroristic Ku Klux Klan staged one of their infamous demonstrations in the Negro section of this city last week.

An automobile caravan of 64 cars and 275 pedestrians started from the City Auditorium in Sunshine Park, escorted by city police officers. License plates were covered to hide the identity of owners. A huge cross was burned in a ceremony. On the morning of the march a local newspaper carried an interview with the Klan's Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott who was quoted as saying that he had come to Florida to "eradicate from the Klan a minority with an obsession against Jews—that the Klan never intended to be an 'anti' organization, anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish or anti anything else but pro-American."

Negro leaders regarded the demonstration as an attempt to intimidate Negroes who have exclusively been victims of lynch-law in this state.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

FLORIDA

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union  
November 21, 1939

## Klan's Methods Of Intimidation Are Abandoned

New Imperial Wizard Says  
He Will Not Tolerate  
Such Practices.

MIAMI, Nov. 20, (AP)—J. A. Colescott of Atlanta, new imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, said today he did not "intend to tolerate" such methods of intimidation as the burning of fiery crosses and parades of white-robed figures through negro sections that occurred before a city election here last Fall.

"There are more intelligent American ways to handle such problems," Colescott said. "I would rather see the Klan disorganized than see it continue its old policy of anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism or anti-alienism."

The imperial wizard, here to complete a State-wide Klan reorganization, said he was accused "of selling out to the Jews" by some Klansmen at the convocation in Atlanta last June.

"Jews have equal rights under the Constitution," he declared, "and as far as the Klan is concerned they are entitled to those rights. We have not compromised the basic creed of the Klan, however. We have not added to or taken away any of our aims, for the Klan always will be devoted to preservation of patriotism."

The Klan would not be an organization, he said, directed against the Jews or any other minority groups.

"There has been a lot of controversy in this State because of certain former Klan leaders' anti-Semitic attitude and misdirected efforts," he declared, "and I intend to see the Klan completely reorganized here, as in other States on a sound basis of Americanism. Within the last two months some 25 Klan leaders in Florida, including eight in Miami, have been relieved of their commands for that reason."

Colescott said he would not appoint a new Florida grand dragon until he was satisfied the Klan's activities were running smoothly in accordance with the new pro-

gram. He was accompanied here by Fred Bass of Orlando, temporary chief of his Florida staff.

He planned to return to Atlanta tomorrow.

## Miami Students Boycott Jim Crow Kluxer Candidate

Refuse to Buy Ice Cream Manufactured by Christiansen

5-24-39

MIAMI, Fla. — (ANP) — A highlight of last week's city election as a prelude to which the Ku Klux marched ineffectively to intimidate Negro voters, was the important and strategic part played by high school students in defeating Commissioner Candidate Christiansen.

In a last-minute appeal for support of the white voters, Candidate Christiansen, an ice cream manufacturer, radioed his refusal to accept Negro votes, if any were cast for him.

This was the announcement made Friday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Association had asked United States Attorney General to prosecute members of the Florida Klan under section 19 of the Federal criminal code.

This section of the code provides a \$5,000 fine and imprisonment of not more than ten years for two or more persons who conspire "to injure persons in exercise of civil rights". The section makes specific reference to persons who make use of a disguise to carry out their purposes of intimidating citizens in the exercise of their rights under the constitution.

Replying to the Association's request the U.S. Attorney General's office said that the Dept., has requested a full report from its representatives in Miami.

Despite efforts of the Klan to intimidate Negro citizens by burning firey crosses and

### JUSTICE DEPT. TO INVESTIGATE KLAN OUTRAGE IN MIAMI

Miami, Fla. The terrorist activities of the Florida Ku Klux Klan which took place just prior to the recent primary elections held in Miami, when white citizens in the familiar Klan garb sought to intimidate Negro citizens in an effort to keep them from voting at the polls, is being investigated by the Dept. of Justice.

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## FLORIDA

showing lynch victims in effigy, more than 1,500 Negroes turned out to vote, under the leadership of Samuel B. Solomon, an undertaker.

Age  
6-17-39  
New York, N.Y.

## Kluxers Raid, Beat Fla. Negroes

LIVE OAK, Fla. — (ANP) — Choosing Saturday night at its busiest, a band of hoodlums wearing Ku Klux regalia swooped down on this little city on the banks of the Suwanee river, visited every Negro business place, beat all the Negroes they could find on the streets, then invaded several white places before leaving town. Local police have done nothing.

One of the victims was Prof. John L. Hopp, fraternal leader and grand master of the order of Archery, who was severely beaten. His son, John Hopp, Jr., was ordered out of town and has left.

Although most of this terrorism occurred within one block of the police station, neither officers nor sheriff could be found while the Klan held sway. Even colored women with babies in their arms were set upon and beaten and since then most Negro citizens are going about armed in anticipation of another raid.

Several white stores were damaged, among them one of the Piggy Wiggly chain which has entered suit against the city to collect damages. Most of the white places visited were known as "jook joints," or small taverns.

It is believed this trouble was the aftermath of a new jook built in front of the Negro high school. It was financed by a white man and run by a Negro reputed to be an "Uncle Tom." According to the accepted story, he influenced his white backer to call a Klan raid and break up the business run by Hopp so he

could get all the trade.

Commenting following the trouble, The Suwanee Democrat, local white paper, declared that "sidewalk loitering and promenading," "rowdiness near white churches" and "insolence and recklessness of delivery boys white stores when they drive their trucks, cabs and bicycles" was probably back of the attacks. Declaring it does not condone mob rule, the paper did say that "practically everyone called on did deserve this roughing up as it was most foolish for a handful of colored individuals to take back to those facing them. And whoever may have been 'spanked' at white or colored jook joints deserved that punishment."

## Kluxers Stage Riot To Scare Race

LIVE OAK, Fla. — (ANP) — Ku Klux Kluxmen in full regalia invaded the Negro business section of this city at the busiest hour last Saturday night. Equipment in racial business establishments was broken up and all Negroes found on the streets, including women and children, were beaten. Several white places were also damaged.

The Klan demonstration took place one block from the police station, but neither officers nor the sheriff could be found.

One of the victims was John L. Hopp, fraternal leader and grand master of the Order of Archery, who was badly beaten. His son, John Jr., was ordered out of town and has gone.

The raid is said to have been inspired by a colored man who opened a tavern for a white man across the street from the colored high

school. He is then said to have his white backer call in the Klan to break up Hopp's business so that he and the white man might get all the trade.

KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

## The South Has No Ills That Ku Kluxism Can Cure

Today the South faces challenges of profound significance.

Upon the outcome of this region's struggle for mastery of the complex problems confronting it will be determined in large measure the future destiny of the United States.

This nation, in turn, is one of the last strongholds of democracy, and as such is the custodian of a civilization that has been centuries in the making.

In developing its human and natural resources, the South is faced with the necessity of:

Creating new industries and new jobs.

Rehabilitating an agricultural system that is suffering from a combination of ills, economic and social.

It should be recognized, within the South and in the nation at large, that the region is dependent upon the nation in two important respects. First, it must look to the nation to correct manifest injustices such as freight-rate differentials and in- quitable tariffs which have denied it equal opportunity to develop. Second, it must look to the federal government for financial support in the rehabilitation of its agricultural system and in providing adequately for such social services as health and education.

Regardless of the merit of these demands their realization is dependent upon the good will of the nation and the political influence the South is able to enlist in its behalf.

In the final analysis, of course, support from the nation will not be the determining factor. Whether the South is to go forward or to slip into decay will depend upon whether its own leaders are equipped with ability of a high order and are motivated by the highest spiritual traditions of the region.

\* \* \* \*

The South, like any other spot on the globe, is not wholly good or wholly bad. Within it there is much that is beautiful and fine and also much that is ugly and degraded.

In recent weeks there have been disquieting evidences of a revival of the Ku Klux Klan in the South. While not serious from the standpoint of the present extent of the revival, the implications of such a movement should not be overlooked.

Ku Kluxism is the South's native un-Americanism. Fortunately, we are familiar with its symptoms and its dangers. Fortunately also is the fact that among those most opposed to it today are thousands of earnest and sincere men who thoughtlessly or innocently were members of the organization in the 'twenties.

The South has no problems which can be solved by bigotry and violence. It has no dangers which cannot be met openly and without benefit of the mask.

If the South yields to such forces today—if ignorance crows intelligence, if self-appointed vigilantes substitute terror for the due processes of law, if racial and religious bigotry and prejudice defy the traditions which have made this nation unique in the history of man—the South will find itself ostracized by the enlightened opinion of the world. It will have become a spiritual kinsman of Hitler.

The baser manifestations of Ku Kluxism are identical with those of nazism—nazism which has

GENERAL

## Klan Quiz Suggested By White

2-14-39  
Requests Made  
Of Congressman  
Martin Dies

NEW YORK—(SNS)—A new request that Congressman Martin Dies of Texas, chairman of the Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, examine into the workings of the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion, and lynching mobs, was made by the NAACP this week.

The request, the third made by the NAACP, was sent to Congressman Dies immediately after the House voted to continue his committee and gave it \$100,000 for expenses.

The NAACP letter, signed by Walter White, secretary, cited the article in Ken Magazine for February 9 entitled "The Klan's Spring Campaign," in which the writer indicated that the Klan was being used by some powerful forces, who remain in the background, to carry on a campaign of hatred.

\* Copy of the letter was sent to Congressmen Arthur D. Healy, John J. Dempsey, Joe Starnes, Noah M. Mason and J. Parnell Thomas. Mr. Thomas replied to the NAACP, stating that he would urge the investigation of the Ku Klux Klan and similar organizations.

## TO PROBE KU KLUX

New York, Feb. 16. A new request that Congressman Martin Dies of Texas, chairman of the Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities examine into the workings of the Ku Klux Klan, the Black Legion, and lynching mobs, was made by the N.A.A.C.P. this week.

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Courier  
2-18-39  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## The South's Way

THE SOUTH is the Fascist-Nazi section of this country. Ku Klux Klanism and other isms, practiced mostly against Negro citizens of that section of the country, are as reprehensible and degrading as is fascism or nazism to liberty loving people of the European continent. Its workings are as contravening to the principles of liberty and freedom, and are as much of a menace to a democratic government as are any of the European brands of isms now rampant in the old world. But it is the way of the South, and for centuries the South, with respect to its treatment of the Negro, has undergone little, if any, change. The only reason Americans, as a whole, do not abhor it, is because it is predicated upon colorphobia, to which the great bulk of white Americans subscribe, both North and South.

As an illustration of the South's way in dealing with Negro citizens who seek to exercise their rights as such, we, in this instance, take the case of young William Anderson, a 19-year-old youth of Greenville, South Carolina, who was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to jail on a disorderly conduct charge growing out of his alleged phoning a white girl for a date. The youth had been very active in arousing Negroes to their rights, urging them to use the ballot in local elections. This activity, of course, was against

# Thinks Klan Will Launch Atlanta World Drive In May

Almost simultaneously with the publication by the magazine, "Ken" of a story telling of the renewed activity of the Ku Klux Klan in the nation, it was revealed Thursday in testimony to the Georgia House economy investigating committee a reported transaction in which Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Klan, was said to have obtained a State Highway Board contract for the Southeastern Construction Company with which he is associated, despite the fact that his bid allegedly was \$180,000 higher than another submitted.

The testimony came from a young white Atlanta attorney who was hired by the Fulton County solicitor general to investigate activities of the State Highway Department. A contract calling for 6,000,000 gallons of asphalt emulsion was said to have been given to Evans' company at 11 cents per gallon when another company had bid 8 cents per gallon, submitted the bid in person to the purchasing agent of the Highway Department in March, 1937.

## MAGAZINE EXPOSES

The article in "Ken" concerning the "Klan's Spring Campaign" carried an explanatory paragraph as follows:

"There is feverish activity in Suite 756 of the Hurt Building in Atlanta, Ga., these days. The Ku Klux Klan is staging a nation-wide comeback and this is its national headquarters. Fat, shrew-smiling, garrulous Old Doc Evans is still Emperor and Imperial Wizard, but he's now apparently only fronting for a Big Boss who has some sensational new plans which have already begun to click. Once again the Klan is holding hands with politicians all over the country, but the hand-holding is being done under the table. The big drive begins in May".

Dr. Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, is scheduled to appear before the house economy committee Monday to answer questions regarding an asphalt deal with the State Highway Department.

# 'Doc' Hiram Evans To Quit As Klan Chief at Meeting

## Ku Klux Imperial Wizard To End 10-Year Reign; Hooded Order Plans Drive for Money and Americanism.

By LAMAR Q. BALL.

Some time today the super-gaudy sheet which for ten years has identified Hiram Wesley Evans as imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan will be slipped off his super-portly frame and dropped hopefully over the head of one of the boys more gifted in the wizardry of drawing in the dough.

The simple ceremony will mark the end of "Doc" Evans' reign as the brains of an order suffering from an anemia of ideas that even the sheets can't cover.

Grand dragons were assembling in Atlanta last night for a three-day session at which they hope to work out a method of making grand dragons. The assembling was limited, however, to grand dragons able to dig up the carfare. Those able to get here in time for the pre-convention caucuses were far from enthusiastic over the type of Americanism that is floating around this country today.

Yesterday, the Klan leaders spent in restless planning. At Dr. Evans' offices in the Hurt building, he was in to no one. His daughter greeted all callers, and after all, that is the real test of their sincerity as far as the Klan is concerned.

## Country in Mess.

This country, according to the Klan, is in one awful mess; so awful, in fact, that even the conservative Doctor Evans was suggesting to newspapermen last night that they hurry out to the Oakland City lodge, put ten dollars on the line, have themselves initiated and walk in on today's secret convention sessions as bona fide Klansmen with the paid-up right of getting the inside facts at first hand.

Today's sessions will be secret, but the Klan, according to Evans, is willing to waive technicalities for those 10 magic dollars. There will be no courtesy cards for the press. The Klan, it seems, is on the verge of what the Klan probably will call bankruptcy.

Thousands of nightgowns, selling at \$10 a copy, according to economists, will save almost any one of the boys more gifted in the dress goods business from bankruptcy to say nothing of the stimulation that such sales would bring to the textile industry as a whole. The Klan is convinced it has a sound idea up to that point, the only weakness in the idea is how to get it working.

## Prejudice Symposium.

Today's opening session will be dedicated to a symposium on sub-American prejudices, simmering in the American mind but capable of being worked to a boiling pitch. On the fruits of that symposium rests the selection of Wizard Evans' successor.

Yesterday, the Klan leaders spent in restless planning. At Dr. Evans' offices in the Hurt building, he was in to no one. His daughter greeted all callers, and after all, that is the real test of their sincerity as far as the Klan is concerned.

"The report is around that Sam Green (grand dragon of the Georgia Klan) is saying he is going to toss you out tomorrow," Doctor Evans was told.

"He's going to do no such thing," the doctor retorted indignantly.

I'm going to walk out under my own power. Whoever's telling you such stuff as that is merely trying to get you to print things that are

Continued in Page 13, Column 4.

not facts and stir up some controversy. Then, you'll feel bad, won't you, when you find you have been sucked in like that?"

"Do you mean you are not going to let them throw you out?"

## Don't Print This.

"Yes, I mean that. There is no strife in the Klan. Everything is harmony, I'm going to quit. But, I'm not saying that for publication. I'm not saying for publication what I'm going to do before tomorrow."

"Well, we'll have to print it now."

"Go ahead and print what you want, but remember that I'm not saying anything—"

"But, you just said—"

"Yes, I know what I said, but I'm not saying it for publication."

Reports were around that Doctor Evans, in retiring from the Klan as wizard today, will suggest for his successor J. A. Colescott, who came to Atlanta from Ohio two years ago to act as Evans' lieutenant.

Colescott, queried on this, emerged from a room in a downtown hotel where he was in conference with several grand dragons, and said:

"No, I'm not even a candidate. I have not offered. There are several candidates, but I am not one of them. Of course, if the majority of the delegates tomorrow decide that I am the man, then there is no telling what I will do. But I am not a candidate."

## Baskin in Line.

The strongest candidate for the wizard's job, according to reports, is J. T. Baskin, of Richmond, Va. He is the man, it was said, that Evans will fight, but Colescott disputed this report last night.

"There are no factional fights."

"Colescott then went on to discuss what the fight centered around.

"Some believe that we should get to work and stir up some prejudices, fight the minorities that are said to menace this country. My idea, though, is that the man who is in a bad shape in this country right now is the native born, 100 per cent American. Millions of them are out of jobs. We should go to work actively to help the suffering American. Why worry about minorities that amount to nothing."

"Can't you find some issue to agree on?" he was asked.

"We will agree on one tomorrow."

## Ready for New Year.

The secret sessions will be held

at the Henry Grady hotel with the triumphant faction starting off a new year trying to revive the Klan with whatever transfusion is found to be violent enough.

The Klan, according to the Klansmen who are left, would not be in this bad shape had not Doctor Evans, in his advancing age, mellowed to a point where he hates no one, loves everyone.

The pre-convention caucuses last night had arrived at no good solution. They swung from one pitch of violent debates to a more melancholy one of long sighs and bleak meditation.

They sat on the edges of beds in hotel rooms arguing, at times, staring at each other, at times. Americanism today faces a real test.

# Klan Goes To Indiana For Wizard

ATLANTA, GA., June 10.—(AP)—James Arnold Colescott, 42-year-old former veterinarian, succeeded Dr. Hiram W. Evans, one-time dentist, as imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan today.

Portly, bald native of Terre Haute, Ind., Colescott had served two years as Evans' chief of staff.

Chosen at a secret "klonvocation" by representatives from 30 States, he declared he planned a four-year "administration of action" and—outlining policy as chief of the hooded order—said the Klan strove to promote interests of the "native born, white Protestant, Gentile" population of America.

"Doubtless," he added, "the well organized minority groups will take care of their interests. It's at least their problem."

Preceding the announcement of his election, Dr. Evans, who aided in re-establishing the Klan in post-World War days and had served as its head since 1922, denied reports of internal dissension over policy.

"In all its long and checkered career," he said, "there has never been division within the Klan."

The retiring imperial wizard attracted comment six months ago by attending the dedication of a new Catholic church in Atlanta by invitation of Bishop Gerald P. O'Hara. Anti-Catholicism was once a major point of the Klan program.

"Some criticized me for coming," said Dr. Evans. "Others praised me. To those who criticized I can only say I believe I am right."

# Woman Flogged Klansmen Stage Demonstration By Group Of Men In Ben Hill

*Daily record*  
City Policemen J. H. Langley and H. D. Henshaw Saturday morning had reported an account of a flogging, alleged to have taken place in Ben Hill last Wednesday night when several white men flogged a colored woman.

The officers said they found the victim Friday at 323 1/2 Walker street, SW, and quoted her as saying two carloads of men came to her home at 5 Matthews Alley, SW, Wednesday night and forced her and her small daughter to get into one of the cars.

The woman was listed by police as Mrs Laveria Fluker, 27 years old. The daughter is Oriwell Fluker, 11 years old.

After reaching a deserted spot in Ben Hill, Mrs. Fluker was quoted by the officers as saying she was taken from the car and ordered on her hands and knees. She said the men made her keep this position while they flogged her with grass ropes.

Her child, she said, was carried several feet away and warned not to make an outcry if she valued her life. Mrs. Fluker said she and her daughter remained in the deserted spot until daybreak and then begged a ride to town.

Officers Henshaw and Langley told them that the floggers accused her of stealing a ring from her former employer.

The victim was able to give officers descriptions of several of the white men.

Several persons living in Matthews Alley were quoted by the officers as saying the white men made the woman accompany them in one of two cars which stopped in the alley.

A similar incident occurred last Wednesday night when a group of white men took J. W. Wright, 46, of 76 Hilliard street, NE, apartment C, from his home to Ben Hill and beat and robbed him.

The attackers accused Wright of making improper remarks to "some lady" at a local hotel where Wright is employed.

# *Heavy record* In Front Of Newspaper Office

*R-26-39*  
**KLANSMEN PARADE  
AT CONSTITUTION  
Building  
Bear Signs Criticizing Editorial Policy.**

By The Associated Press. About 600 men masked in regalia of the Ku Klux Klan paraded once around the Atlanta Constitution building last night bearing signs expressing criticism of editor *Atlanta Constitution*. Ralph T. Jones, associate editor, was named in two of the signs. Informed at his home of the demonstration, he said he could recall nothing specific that would have brought it on.

"The Constitution policy always has been anti-Klan and always will be so far as I am concerned," he said.

## Group Manhandles Photographer; Take Off Glasses

A group of the Kluxers grabbed Bill Wilson, Constitution photographer, removed his glasses and yelled:

"Get a good look at him boys so you'll know him next time."

More than 50 members of the Klan marched into the Constitution editorial room, it was declared. The invaders carried placards which protested against the editorial policy of the Constitution, it was reliably reported.

It was learned that the Ku Klux Klan organization objected to anti-Klan editorials written by Ralph T. Jones, associate editor of the Constitution.

City officials revealed that the Klan had been given permission to stage a parade. The demonstration was not included in the permission, it was pointed out.

City Editor Noble of the Constitution was quoted as saying the

Constitution has always found the policies of the Ku Klux Klan and white men took J. W. Wright, 46, of 76 Hilliard street, NE, apartment C, from his home to Ben Hill and beat and robbed him.

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# FIRST LIEUTENANT OF EVANS ELECTED NEW KLAN WIZARD

*Constitution*  
Colescott Tells Policy,  
Says Group Bears No  
Grudges; Action Will  
Mark Administration.

By LAMAR Q. BALL.

Doctor Hiram Wesley Evans demonstrated yesterday that there was a great deal of truth to what he has maintained all along about the strength of his grip on the Ku Klux Klan. *6-11-39*

His first lieutenant for the last two years was elevated to the post he vacated as imperial wizard of the order.

In less time than it took to write it on the back of the hotel stationery, the new imperial wizard, James Arnold Colescott, 42 years old and a former veterinarian, issued his statement of policies for the Klan for the next four years, a carefully typewritten summary of the golden thoughts that have been rolling off the tongue of Doctor Evans ever since he tossed Klan habits to the breezes six months ago and attended the dedication of a new Catholic cathedral in Atlanta.

## Has No Hates.

From now on, according to Imperial Wizard Colescott, the Klan nourishes no hates, loves everyone, bears no grudges, believes in letting the other fellow mind his own business.

As a remnant of the past, he announced in figurative sense only:

"The fiery cross will again blaze on the hilltops of America and the Klan serve militantly for God, country and home."

Just as an illustration of how this is no more than a melodious

trumpet accompaniment to necessary oratory, Wizard Colescott explained in his hotel room an hour or so later:

"I am against floggings, lynchings and intimidations. Anyone who flogs, lynches or intimidates ought to be in the penitentiary. And, you can believe me, I shall do everything I can to help put such people there where they belong."

## Stresses Action.

Explaining that his administration would be an administration of action, he said:

"We shall ever strive to promote the interest of the native-born white, Protestant, Gentile population of America. Doubtless, the well-organized minority groups will take care of their interests. It is at least their problem."

Colescott long ago expressed his belief that all persons should be permitted to worship as they choose and that the native-born white has enough worries of his own without worrying about so-called threats of the minorities.

"What will you do for the native whites," he was asked.

"Something has to be done for them," he announced. "Millions of them are out of work, but I don't believe it has been caused by any minority. My battle will be an active campaign of positive action in behalf of those suffering millions. I shall not engage in a negative campaign against a small minority about whom no one need worry."

As to political expressions, Colescott offered:

"The Klan is opposed to Communism, Nazism, Fascism and every other ism of alien origin. We do not hold with any citizen that the President of the United States has the right to violate his oath of office five minutes after taking over and through the establishment of military force liquidate any portion of our citizens or deprive them of their freedom. We are for civil laws, courts and juries."

## Had General in Mind.

As to just what that paragraph of his platform meant, he said:

"I had General Moseley in mind when I wrote that. I can't understand an American citizen suggesting the use of martial law to deprive the American citizen of

his relative wealth, comfort and happiness. I believe no man should be ruled by martial law. For the last two years, Colescott has been in the Atlanta headquarters as chief aide to Doctor Evans, to whom he has always been loyal. If the general public is properly informed, it will not tolerate such government."

As to foreign policy, Colescott said:

"We are opposed to any group of people abroad setting up the conditions under which we Americans have to fight for their liberty."

As to his confidence in the principle of the American plan of government, he said:

"I am confidently looking forward to the day when the United States has mopped up with anybody who attempts to deprive our people of their liberties."

And, as to religion:

"We believe in the Constitution of the United States and the amendments thereto which provide for religious freedom, and shall ever strive for the complete separation of church and state."

## Election System.

The Klan's system in electing Colescott to their highest office illustrates the grip which the wizard has on his fellow members.

The wizard appoints the grand dragons in the various states, subject to their acceptance by the states.

"We are always careful," said Colescott, "to appoint a man who is popular among his own Klansmen. Sometimes they are rejected but rarely."

These grand dragons then elect the wizard.

"What is the membership of the Klan nationally?" Colescott was asked.

"We never reveal that," he answered. "One grand dragon doesn't know how many members are under another grand dragon."

Initiation fees are \$10 to \$25 and annual dues \$3 to \$8 as fixed by the local Klans.

## Born in Indiana.

Born in Terre Haute, Ind., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colescott, the new wizard was graduated from Terre Haute Veterinary College in 1917 and enlisted immediately in the army. He served overseas with the first division, and after 23 months was transferred, after the war, to the fifth division. He became a second lieutenant.

Officially connected with the Klan since 1923, he served as grand dragon in Ohio and as "imperial representative" in Texas, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky. He lives at 8 Collier road, is married and has a daughter, 14, a student at North

Fulton High school.

For the last two years, Colescott has been in the Atlanta headquarters as chief aide to Doctor Evans, to whom he has always been loyal. His promotion to the wizardry means a continuance of the Evans policies, softened extensively in the last 10 years as prosperity and age have mellowed him.

Colescott intends to establish his headquarters in the old Klan building at Buckhead, once the seat of activities when the Klan was a flourishing agency, nurturing policies which Evans has discarded.

## Klan Names Successor To Hiram Evans

*6-11-39*  
ATLANTA, June 22 (AP)—A secret "klanvocation" by representatives from 30 states has elected Dr. James Arnold Colescott, 42, former veterinarian, successor to Dr. Hiram V. Evans, one-time dentist, as imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. A native of Terre Haute, Ind., and active in Klan work since 1923, he has been Evans' chief of staff for two years.

In announcing his plans, Colescott said during the next four years his administration would "actively promote the interests of the native born, white, Protestant gentile population of America," adding that "doubtless the well organized minority groups will take care of their interests."

He said he was opposed to European refugees and the Klan feels "with a large number of people unemployed we have no business taking on new responsibilities."

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# O'HARA ANSWERS NEW KLAN CHIEF

*Cor*  
Bishop Cites Rumors That  
Anti-Catholic Literature  
Is Being Distributed.

*6-12-39*  
The statement of James Arnold Colescott, newly elected Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, in which he explained that his administration of Klan destinies ~~to~~ carry out "the interest of the native-born white Protestant, Gentile population of America" brought a sharp answer yesterday morning from the Most Reverend Gerald P. O'Hara, Catholic bishop of Atlanta-Savannah, at the 11 o'clock mass at Sacred Heart church.

*Atlanta*  
No sooner had he ascended the pulpit than Bishop O'Hara said:

"Before preaching the sermon of today I regret circumstances compel me to inject a somewhat unpleasant note into this morning's service. While I am tempted to ignore the matter as unworthy of serious attention, I feel, nevertheless, that it would be a dereliction of duty on my part to remain silent.

"I refer to certain rumors that have reached me and which I believe are substantiated, that anti-Catholic literature is being distributed in the West End and that the KKK has practically proclaimed through its newly elected head that there is no room in Georgia or America for Catholics.

"I do not want to close these remarks without a pleasant note. I rejoice in the fact that the better class of people in Georgia will have nothing to do with any movement that would set one group against another in this state.

"It is a pity that this sort of thing has started up again. I had crisis. In the last war, more thought that such movements had been hopelessly discredited in this country. We deplore the resurgence of a movement which is at once both un-Christian and un-American.

*6-12-39*  
"The Declaration of Independence declares all men are created free and equal; and an amendment to the constitution provides a man's religious affiliation is never to be made a test of office. All the more truly does this mean that religious affiliations are never to

be made a test of citizenship. "The principles and motives underlying any movement that would turn one group of citizens against another because of religion, race or creed are in violation of the most elementary laws of Christian charity.

"By a coincidence, the very epistle of this Sunday which is read in all Catholic churches throughout the world today contains these words of St. John: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer."

"Strong language this, but it comes from the great apostle of charity.

"We are not dismayed when men rise up against the church. Our Lord told us all about it beforehand. He even spoke of well-meaning persons who would be against the church and who even thought they would be doing a service to God thereby.

"They have persecuted me. They will also persecute you. The disciple is not above his Master."

"I want you to be reminded that this country was discovered by Catholics. All the great discoverers and explorers were Catholic. The first religious service on Georgia soil was a Catholic service. The work of the Catholic explorers is manifest in the Catholic names given to the rivers they discovered and the cities they founded. In some parts of this country a railroad conductor who announces the stations is compelled to practically recite the Catholic litany of the saints.

"I wish to state that if any charges are made against the church, all statements will have to be proved uncontroversially. Those who make accusations must prove them or forever hold their peace.

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Catholics have defended this country in every war and every thought that such movements had been hopelessly discredited in this country.

We deplore the resurgence of a movement which is at reports which have reached me to the effect that there is an anti-Catholic movement on foot in this state are without foundation."

## KKK Burns Cross To "Aid" Georgia Race Relations

*Journal and Guide 10-24-39*  
ATLANTA, Ga. (ANP)—A huge cross, surrounded by scores of figures wearing the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan, was lighted last week in Moseley Park, residential section in the West End, the presumed purpose being to intimidate colored Atlantans and halt a so-called trend toward "racial purity."

James A. Colescott, imperial wizard, reportedly said the Klan several weeks ago, started a series of demonstrations in Georgia and other eastern States "on the question of white supremacy."

Local residents consider this a reference to the recent criminal raids made by the Klan in Belton, Fountain Inn, and Simpsonville, N. C.

### BUSINESS SAGS

In these raids, according to witnesses, men, women and children were beaten and the victims robbed by the hooded raiders. It was estimated that \$25,000 in business was lost to merchants of the raided towns, as colored residents were afraid to venture out after nightfall.

Concerning the Atlanta cross-burning, Colescott said: "It may have been one of a series ordered by the Klan to bring about a better understanding between the races."

**THE KLAN AGAIN**

**KEN MAGAZINE** in its February 9th issue has an interesting article on the Ku Klux Klan and a political drive which it will begin nationally in May to recapture part of its campaign. Regional headquarters have been established in New York, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles from which points the Klan's program will be carried out according to regional needs. The plan embraces not only the regional idea but the "Kiss of Death" to be a factor in the coming presidential campaign. Regional headquarters have been established in New York, Chicago, Denver, and Los Angeles from which points the Klan's program will be carried out according to regional needs. The plan embraces not

In the utmost secrecy the Klan operates out of a five-room suite in the Hurt Building in Atlanta, Ga. And since most reputable persons have avoided it is here, the writer reveals, that "there is no Klan tieup and many candidates have an almost feverish activity in these efforts to repudiate the Klan, it will be the Klan's to rebuild a political and propaganda machine strategy in forthcoming elections to use the

which once had five million members and "Kiss of Death" on candidates with whom it profoundly influenced the country's political life." The new Klan sales talk has been where there might be close elections involves slightly changed, however, for a changing determination by the Klan of which candidate is its friend and which is its foe. Once pleasure at religious persecution, the Klan is having determined this the Klansmen will get soft-peddling the Catholic Church and the busy and actively campaign in behalf of their Pope and only brings up this issue when necessary.

The article reveals that Evans who is still Klan Emperor and Imperial Wizard" is apparently only fronting for a big boss who has some sensational new plans which have already begun to click. But it is not the same boastful and cock-sure Evans who is now heading the Klan again. Just how cautious he is may be gleaned from the following statements:

"We're a secret organization and our program is secret. We're not shouting it from the housetops like we used to. Our program is sent out as instructions to our field men and then passed on by word of mouth. We got into a lot of trouble before by talking and writing too much. Why, we've even stopped getting out printed material. You know, over the years, a name crops out once in a while and ten of 15 years later, when you figure everything's been forgotten, the person runs for some political office and it comes up to haunt us. Pretty near ruins the man politically, and sometimes economically, so we're not putting anything in writing any more. Nobody's going to get anything on us this time."

The article goes on to reveal that the Klan made careful plans after the last elections to

Congress, we believe that Ken's article should be taken seriously and a thorough investigation made of the startling information it contains. And that investigation cannot be gotten under way any too soon if this most hated of organizations is to be prevented from carrying out its announced plans.

## 5-26-39 KLAN 'SHOWS' Flogging ARE OUTLAWED

Special Police Guard  
Patrols Streets as Citi-  
zents of Egan Park Ex-  
press

ATLANTA, Feb. 16 (UPI)—Following three staged kidnappings on prominent street corners in the city last week, measures were pending in the legislature and city council to outlaw the use of any disguises.

Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the hooded Klan, announced that all Klan regalia had been called in and in the future would be issued only for legal purposes.

## GEORGIA SEEKS TO UNMASK KKK

ATLANTA, Feb. 23—(ANP)—If a bill recently introduced by Rep. J. Davis of Newman, is passed by the legislature, the State of Georgia, home of the Ku Klux Klan, will make it illegal for any organization or individual to wear masks in public places.

The measure was introduced following reported kidnappings of several white men by masked and hooded Klansmen in downtown Atlanta. Later it was said this was merely part of a Klan initiation. Davis said his bill was designed to "keep the Klan out of public places," and added "we don't need the Klan anyway."

The article significantly concludes with the statement by Evans that "We have more Governors now than we ever had. But we're not talking so much about it. When we have a real Klansman in office we keep quiet nowadays."

With the Dies Congressional Committee's investigations to be continued by the present

With the disclosure that two other men had been flogged by a mysterious band in Egan Park, a special county police guard patrolled the streets of that area last night after residents said they feared further violence and bloodshed following the series of beatings which included a lashing given the Rev. Grady R. Kent.

Others were reported to have received warnings from the band but their names were not disclosed.

Whipping of two men in addition to Kent, who is pastor of the Church of God at Egan Park, was reported to Assistant Police Chief John Oliver yesterday morning by Fred Evans, of 9 Baine street, Egan Park, who said he is assistant pastor of the church.

He reported that a man named Huey Brannan, a WPA worker living on Center street, and another named Johnson had been flogged by six unmasked men only a few hours before the Rev. Mr. Kent was taken 10 miles from his home and given 50 lashes by two carloads of men.

"We are going to keep special officers on duty in the Egan Park area until this thing is cleared up," Oliver asserted.

He asked Evans, Kent and other residents of the town to notify police if they see any persons who they believe might have taken part in the "kidnapping." A line-up before the victims will be arranged, he added.

In the meantime, no further disturbances were reported and the pastor of the Church of God was

continuing his revival services. Evans said that Brannan and Johnson were "badly whipped" and warned to "live better lives." They have no connection with the church he represents, he said. Kent was warned to "get out of town before Sunday" by the band that abducted him.

## Next Imperial Wizard?



JOEL L. BASKIN.

## BASKIN IS SLATED NEXT KLAN WIZARD

### *Continuation*

#### Richmond Man in Line to Succeed Dr. Evans if At- lantan Is Overthrown.

5-28-39  
Joel L. Baskin, of Richmond, Va., is slated to be the new imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan if Baskin succeeds in ~~gaining~~ control of the Klan. The headquarters would be moved from Atlanta to Washington.

Anti-Evans leaders are reported

5-28-39  
enennial Klan conference, it was in revolt against the present officials of the Klan because of Evans' refusal to lead an anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic campaign, which, it is said, will get under way if

Evans is ousted at next month's meeting.

Baskin at present is grand

dragon of the Klan realm includ-

ing Virginia, West Virginia, Mary-

Evans is ousted at next month's

land and the District of Columbia.

He has long been recognized as a

leader of the anti-Evans forces

within the Klan of which he has

been a member for more than 20

years.

*Atlanta*  
Georgians for Baskin.

Georgia's delegate to the con-

ference, it is understood, have

been instructed to vote for Baskin.

The decision to cast the state's vote

against Dr. Evans was reached at

a secret caucus of the state Klan leaders here last week. Dr. Sam Green, Georgia grand dragon, will head the state's delegation to the conference.

The biennial conference which is scheduled for Atlanta June 9, 10 and 11, is the first major gathering of the Klan in nearly 10 years.

It could not be learned yesterday whether Dr. Evans would seek re-election as imperial wizard or support another candidate against Baskin. The present wizard still insists that a harmonious session is expected and has said that if there are to be any difficulties he has not been informed of them. In some quarters it was reported that should Evans decline to enter a contest with Baskin for Klan control he might support another candidate, probably James E. Colescott, of Atlanta.

#### Baskin Favored To Win.

Should Baskin enter the conference with the combined delegates of the District of Columbia and the three states of his realm, plus those from Georgia and one or two more states, it is believed that his election would be assured.

Baskin was in charge of the Washington offices of the Klan when the hooded organization was at its peak. He first broke with Wizard Evans when the present Klan leader ordered the Washington office combined with the Atlanta headquarters. Baskin led an unsuccessful movement to keep the Washington offices open.

#### May Move Headquarters.

It is understood here that should Baskin succeed in ~~gaining~~ control of the Klan the headquarters would be moved from Atlanta to Washington.

Anti-Evans leaders are reported

5-28-39  
enennial Klan conference, it was in revolt against the present officials of the Klan because of Evans' refusal to lead an anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic campaign, which, it is said, will get under way if

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## CONCLAVE CALLED AS HIGH OFFICIALS WORK FOR OUSTER

### *Continuation*

#### Wizard's Enemies Act To Swing Organization Into Anti-Semitic and Anti-Catholic Campaign

A widespread revolt within the high councils of the Ku Klux Klan which has for its purpose the unfrocking of Dr. Hiram Wesley Evans as imperial wizard and the rebirth of the Klan as an anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic organization was revealed *Continuation* 5-28-39

Leaders of the movement have been working for months to gain control of the Klan imperial councils and to "retire" Dr. Evans, it was learned yesterday and have gained such momentum as to force an "imperial conference" which has been scheduled for Atlanta on June 9, 10 and 11.

#### Evans Sees Harmony.

Dr. Evans admitted yesterday that the conference, which he termed the regular biennial meeting, had been scheduled but gave assurance that all will be harmonious.

"It will be our regular biennial meeting and as far as I now know there will be unity on all fronts," the imperial wizard said.

Nevertheless, it was definitely established that some of the Wizard's most trusted lieutenants have broken with him over his refusal

5-28-39  
to put the Klan forward as an anti-Semitic organization and for his open friendliness toward the presidential aspirations of Postmaster General James A. Farley, a Roman Catholic. Dr. Evans' presence at the recent dedication of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta and widespread publication of his photograph with Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia, who

dedicated the church, also has added fuel to the fire.

#### Deny It, But . . .

Evans' lieutenants whose activities have been linked with those of the revolt leaders vigorously deny participation in the program but their activities give strong indication to the contrary.

Dr. Evans is known to have kept the Klan from joining in several anti-Semitic movements within the last few months despite strong pressure from some of his leaders.

Dr. Evans has been in almost

postmaster general is nominated either for president or vice president.

#### Farley Strong in South.

Anti-Farleyites within the party are said to be working feverishly to cut down the postmaster general's popularity in the south where the political machinery is in control of federal and state job-holders with whom the postmaster general has been extremely friendly both in his cabinet capacity and as chairman of the Democratic national committee. Farley's friends among the political lights are perhaps more numerous than those of any other politician. On his last visit to Atlanta "Big Jim" was greeted by the leaders of every faction of politics in Georgia, the Talmadge forces included.

There were some reports here yesterday that Dr. Evans stands ready to relinquish control of the Klan, maybe quit its ranks altogether, if the forces of intolerance rear their heads at next month's meeting. "They say" that he will walk out of the meeting rather than permit his name to be used in an anti-Semitic or anti-Catholic campaign again. But the doctor insists all will be harmonious.

## EVANS THREATENED BY REVOLT IN KLAN

*Continued From First Page.*

supreme control of the Klan for nearly 15 years, replacing Dr. William Joseph Simmons, who is credited with being founder of the organization.

Although the Wizard declined to discuss details of the June conference here, he admitted that it would be the biggest gathering of Klan leaders since the heyday of the organization. Dr. Evans, like other Klan leaders, will never admit that there has been any decline in Klan activities although it is a matter of common knowledge that the organization is far from being the flourishing group it was 10 or 12 years ago.

#### Basis of Opposition.

Information gleaned from reliable sources yesterday seemed to indicate that those opposed to Dr. Evans base their opposition on the two grounds, first, that he will not permit the Klan to be used in any campaign against the Jews and, second, that he has shown too tolerant a spirit toward the Roman Catholic church. The leaders of the revolt, it is said, are divided into two factions but are allying with the understanding that if the reorganization is perfected the aims of both groups will be carried out.

Those who are insisting that the Klan repudiate Dr. Evans' action in attending the Catholic church dedication are said to be obtaining strong support from a small group of Democratic leaders who are definitely opposed to the political aspirations of Postmaster General Farley and from this group are obtaining means to win the support of the anti-Semitic group. They are quoting a well-known magazine writer to the effect that Dr. Evans told him he intended to support Farley if the

Ku Klux Klan- 1939

INDIANA

## KU KLUX LEADER DENIED NEW TRIAL

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 2—(UPI)—D. C. Stephenson, white, former Ku Klux Klan dragon who is now serving a life term for murder in the Indiana State Prison, was denied a two-hour hearing in his effort to get a new trial on January 31.

## FORMER KLAN CHIEF LOSES ANOTHER PLEA; SENT BACK TO CELL

Noblesville, Ind., Dec. 18 (AP).—D. C. Stephenson, once powerful grand dragon of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan, lost another legal fight for freedom today and will be returned to his cell in Michigan City state prison tomorrow morning as the result of Hamilton Circuit Court Judge Cassius M. Gentry's decision to overrule his motion for a writ of habeas corpus.

Judge Gentry rejected Stephenson's plea to remain in Hamilton county jail until the judge acts on a pending writ of error.

Stephenson heard the ruling in the courtroom from which he was sentenced 14 years ago to life imprisonment in the death of Madge Oberholtzer, Indianapolis statehouse employé.

Immediately after Judge Gentry gave his decision, Stephenson's lawyers announced they would appeal to the Indiana Supreme court.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

MARYLAND

## Klan Claims Ga. Governor and 3 States

Revived KKK Has  
More Governors,  
Wizard Says

Governor Rivers of Georgia, is one of the financial godfathers of the revived Ku Klux Klan, and Florida, South Carolina and Alabama are playing important roles in the spirit of white sheet Fascism, according to Ken magazine.

Writing in the February 5 issue, an unidentified writer says that the hooded order is rising again at the ~~Bank~~ Building in Atlanta. Imperial Wizard Hiram W. Evans is in charge at the headquarters but he is merely a "front man" for some other person or persons the author concludes.

### Claims Georgia Governor

He said that he interviewed Dr Evans a few hours a day for six days, and that the wizard admitted his friendship with Governor Rivers and declared that the State executive once headed the KKK at Lakeland, Ga.

Evans and his family own the Southeastern Construction Company, which builds roads in Georgia, Florida, Alabama and South Carolina.

Asked whether the Klan has influence in Texas, Evans is said to have stated:

"We have more governors now than we ever had, but we're not talking so much about it. When we have a real Klansman in office we keep quiet nowadays. Now don't go getting the idea that I'm claiming the hillbilly (W. Lee O'Daniell) Governor. I'm just saying that Fox (Philip E. Fox former Klan leader) helped a little, and Fox is a very good friend of mine."

KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

MICHIGAN

## New Black Legion Trial Scheduled

DETROIT, Jan. 14.—(AP)—More than two years after police smashed the night-riding activity of Black Legion terrorists in Michigan, the State moves next week to prosecute the man it contend commanded the secret society.

Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, portly 65-year-old electrical contractor of Lima, Ohio, faces examinations in Common Pleas Court Monday on charges of illegal possession of hand grenades, and Tuesday on a criminal syndicalism indictment based on alleged conspiracy to overthrow the government.

A grand jury report named Effinger as national commander, a "major general" and sponsor of the Black Legion, which it described as having been formed in Ohio by rebellious members of the Ku Klux Klan who dyed black their hooded white robes.

The State has made no claim that Effinger was connected with the murders, arson and floggings that shocked the countryside as Michigan authorities, delving into ramifications of the order, obtained nearly 50 convictions of its members.

Eight men convicted of murder received life terms for the Black Legion "execution" of Charles A. Poole; five went to prison for life for the "thrill slaying" of Silas Coleman, a negro. The Poole killing, an outgrowth of false neighborhood gossip that he beat his wife, first exposed the lawless night-riding of the Legion.

## Michigan Drops Charges In 'Black Legion' Case

DETROIT, May 18.—(AP)—The State dropped all criminal charges today against Virgil Effinger, once described by Detroit authorities as head of the Black Legion, and 20 other persons, who had been named on warrants growing out of operations of the hooded order.

Robert L. Arnold, assistant State's attorney general, explained the dismissal as due to the state's inability to obtain the testimony of essential witnesses. He added that a recent Supreme Court ruling had cast doubt upon the validity of the criminal syndicalism statute under which one warrant against Effinger had been issued.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

NEW JERSEY

**FIERY CROSS OF  
KKK BURNS IN  
JOURNAL SQ.**

*Daey seacher*

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

JERSEY CITY, Nov. 11. — The Klu Klux Klan raised its lynch-law symbol of race hatred, the fiery cross, on the edge of Journal Square here last night—the second appearance of the sign in a month. A few weeks ago a cross was burned before St. John Catholic church here.

Hundreds of persons in the square saw the burning cross as well as the carload of Klansmen who drove away from the scene. Firemen, arriving to put out the blazing symbol passed the men who lit the 14-foot cross but no attempt was made to halt them.

The Klansmen were believed to be publicizing a meeting they expect to hold in Journal Square in the future.

KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

NORTH CAROLINA

# GRAND JURY 'CAN'T FIND' FLOGGERS OF 2

*Bee*

2-26-39

GOLDSBORO, N. C., Feb. 23—(ANP)—After meeting for an hour Tuesday at the call of Graves J. Foreman, foreman of the Wayne county grand jury, reported he could not find ~~any~~ evidence or which to act in the flogging by a band of five white men of Floyd Edwards and Kirby Baldwin, held in the city jail as the result of an altercation growing out of the refusal of Baldwin to get off a crowded sidewalk and let Mayor J. H. Hill pass.

The two flogging victims were not able to attend the special session because their wounds were still painful. The investigation was held in secret, and a large crowd of whites which gathered at the court house dispersed when it was learned the probe would not be public.

Edwards and Baldwin were "taken" from their cells by two unmasked white men who "forced" Policeman Walter Gurley, acting desk sergeant, to turn his prisoners over to them. They were carried to a car containing three other unmasked men and carried 10 miles from the city, forced to lie down on a ditch bank, and were severely beaten with limbs and switches from saplings.

**"The Klan Rides Again"**

Basing their actions upon the assumed gullibility of and Negroes, the entire eastside was plastered with handbills Monday night before the primary election by unidentified persons who announced upon the scurrilous sheet "The Klan Rides Again". Needless to say, the author of the handbill, who did not have the intestinal fortitude to sign their names to the statement, charged that Judge R. A. Hefner and Salty Fullerton were members of the Ku Klux Klan. *Reach denoted*

This writer was advised ten days beforehand that this would be done as a last-minute attempt to turn the Negro vote. It did affect some of the vote in the primary, among those who were unthinking, and did not want to feel that they were voting for a member of the Ku Klux Klan. In that respect the editor of the Black Dispatch joins. We are opposed to the order of the Ku Klux Klan, and we think its principles are inimical to the interest of government. The Klan seeks to institute a government of men for our American government of laws.

But Judge Robert A. Hefner and Salty Fullerton have both publicly, and from the platform denounced the Klan and said that they are not now, nor never have been, members of that nefarious organization. With time to reflect would it not be well to study this charge of Klan membership brought against two candidates for city positions, in the light of candor and reason?

*Challenged* For instance, why do not the men who make the charge come out in the open as was done when Justice Hugo Black was exposed? Don't you believe that if reputable citizens had the actual facts in this case they would present those facts as was done in the Black case, and not hide on the border line of innuendo and vile insinuation?

If the statement were true why did these scandal mongers wait until the eleventh hour to disseminate it? The truth is like a lighthouse—it shines through the fog of misunderstanding and doubt. Why have you heard no more about this charge since the slimy sheet found its way to Oklahoma City's gutters? No one has to wait and time the truth for it is eternal and can withstand all opposition.

Unable to assail the reputation of two splendid fellow townsmen, a few low-bred Negroes concocted this scheme with the city hall crowd with the thought in mind that they can continue to fool Negroes. You have heard the story regarding the "Hand of Esau but the voice of Jacob." History seems to repeat itself. The guttersnipes who scattered the bills calculated to terrorize Negroes, themselves act like members of the Klan. Under the cloak of darkness they do their dirty work. They shun the light of day.

Jack Walton ought to have pretty good slant on the Klan membership. A delegation of Negroes should drop out to the capitol between now and Tuesday and find out what he knows about the past reputation of those who now offer themselves for office in Oklahoma City.

This writer does not intend to vote for a Klansman

if he knows it, but in the same breath we tell our readers this: We'll be at the poll voting Tuesday for R. A. Hefner and Salty Fullerton. On election day we'll be watching the fellow rushing about shouting "stop thief!"

# CIRCULAR FLOUTING AUTHORITY OF FSA ISSUED BY ORDER

Klan Angered Over Prospect of Negro Field Representative Working In Greenville, S. C.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 21.—(ANP)—The brazen effrontery and callous boldness which prompts the Ku Klux Klan to flout constituted authority and set itself up as a law unto itself reached a new high here this week when a Klan circular flouting the authority of a branch of the Federal Government made its appearance here.

The Klan circular was distributed over Greenville County Tuesday night, Dec. 7. The circulars are dated October 24, but they did not appear until this week. They undoubtedly refer to a visit of William Street, Negro field representative, Tenant Purchase Section, Farm Security Administration, said to be from Tuskegee.

## BELIEVED HE MAY GET ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT

There has been a rumor here for some time that a Negro who holds an executive position with the Farm Bureau was to be located in the upper part of South Carolina. Apparently the Klan wishes otherwise, and if he is scheduled to come, many believe that he will get an assignment to some other place, so strong is the Klan here. Reproduced, word for word, the Klan's challenge to the Government read as follows:

## FROM THE KU KLUX KLAN

Resolution Reveals Employment of Negro in Official Capacity in Greenville County by Farm Security Administration.

Whereas, it has come to the attention of Fork Shoals Klan, Realm of South Carolina, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, that a Negro man has been sent to Greenville County by the Farm Security Administration to investigate and advise on the work of Rural Rehabilitation and that said Negro has visited a number of farms in this county accom-

Done and ratified in the Klan-County council was so successful that Gov. Burnett R. Maybank Klan, Realm of South Carolina, made a trip here to award certificates to the Negro farm families participating at Fork Shoals, this the 24th day of October, 1929.

## Guilty Of Carrying Pistol

### Had Gun For Protection

### Brier Claimed

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—J. A. Brier, 69, president of the local NAACP branch and the man who recently evaded nightly Ku Klux Klan calls at his home, pleaded guilty on city police court Friday on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, and was sentenced by Judge J. M. Richardson to pay \$52 or serve 30 days, the sentence to be suspended during good behavior on payment of \$17.

Brier was arrested November 30 by city detectives and was released on bond pending trial. The weapon, a .32-caliber revolver on a .38 frame, was confiscated. The NAACP head was sought for questioning in regard to his elections, an activity which brought down Klan wrath.

It was contended by Brier that he was justified in carrying the weapon because of Klan visits to his home. Judge Richardson apparently took this into consideration when he imposed sentence.

Meanwhile Greenville continues to be a city of contradictions. The Klan spoke out against colored FSA executives in the county and flooded the area with handbills calling these Negroes a "menace to white supremacy". But despite this, the "live at home movement" sponsored by the local farm demonstrator and the colored division of the Greenville

## Greenville NAACP Head Fined for Carrying Gun

### *Greenville*

GREENVILLE, S.C. (ANP)—J. A. Brier, 69, president of the NAACP here, pleaded guilty in court, Friday, on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, and was sentenced to pay \$52 or serve 30 days, the sentence to be suspended during good behavior on payment of \$17.

Brier, who recently evaded nightly Klan calls at his home, was arrested November 30 by city detectives and was released on bond pending trial. The weapon, a .32-caliber revolver on a .38 frame, was confiscated.

The NAACP head was sought for questioning in regard to his elections, an activity which brought down Klan wrath.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

# Sought President Of Greenville NAACP; Doors Broken Down

*Atlanta, Ga.*  
Leader was Absent When  
Raiders Came; Blamed For  
Registration of Negroes

*Daily World 11-19-39*

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—The long-deferred visit of the Klan to Jim Brier, popular local colored resident, materialized Saturday night. Brier is the president and organizer of the local branch of the NAACP, and it is on him that the Ku Klux Klan has placed the blame for registration of the Negro voters last summer.

Fortunately Brier was not at home, neither was his wife. When there was no response to their knocks, the Klansmen broke down the doors, and invaded his home. They remained about the house for over thirty minutes and then inquired as to his whereabouts.

Jim Brier has long been a dignified leader in Greenville. For a number of years he was principal of one of the local colored schools. Previous to this he held several responsible federal positions. He is noted for his abstemious habits and his activity in church affairs. He was the leader in the registration movement last summer when nearly 600 colored folk obtained their registration certificates.

During the Klan stay in front of his home someone turned in a false alarm and the sirens of the engines added to the excitement. A large crowd of Negroes gathered and a number on the outskirts of the city. Last Monday night, the Klan crowds reportedly were armed. The two police officers present were in- formed by one of the Klansmen: critic. According to Neely, he "We were the first here but we're not going to be the first to leave, now understand that." No arrests were made. The hood and license plates of the cars carrying the Klansmen, as usual, were covered with white cloth. There were no arrests.

## NEGRO CRITIC OF KLAN ABDUCTED Taken Out by Night Riders

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—Several weeks ago, incensed over the repeated raids made in this city's Negro section by hooded riders of the Ku Klux Klan, Elred D. Neely, colored World War veteran and past commander of Adell Thompson Post, Veteran of Foreign Wars, took his pen in hand, wrote a scathing letter denouncing the Klan and condemning it for its Negro baiting, terroristic activities.

Neely sent his letter to the local white daily newspaper, which published it in the Readers' Column. The local white daily newspaper, which published it in the Readers' Column. The letter was seized in his night clothes, a bag thrown over his head and although shoeless, was forced into the street and into the lead car of a 20-auto cavalcade, which immediately drove a short distance from the city.

## TOSSED FROM CAR

Then, according to Neely, the hooded Kluxers questioned him asking his motive in writing the letter to local papers condemning Klan activities in South Carolina. Neely said he was later tossed out of the car near the home of a lawyer who has been active in defending colored.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

and into the lead car of a 20- auto cavalcade, which immediately drove down Augusta Road, a short distance from the city.

Then, according to Neely, the hooded Kluxers questioned him, asking his motive in writing the letter to local papers condemning Klan activities in South Carolina. He was also asked who helped him write the letter. After denying having received any help Neely said he was tossed out of the car near the home of a local lawyer who has been active in defending Negroes.

## KKK Critic Taken For Ride In Night Clothes

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—Incensed over the repeated raids made in this city's colored section by hooded riders of the Ku Klux Klan, Elred D. Neely, World War veteran and post commander of Adell Thompson Post, Veteran of Foreign Wars, wrote a scathing letter denouncing the Klan and condemning it for its terroristic activities.

Neely sent his letter to the local white daily, which published it in the Readers' Column, recently.

Since then, emboldened by the discussion his letter prompted, Neely reputedly transferred his lambastings to the stump, delivered several street corner speeches, derogatory to the Klan.

## HOME BROKEN INTO

Last Monday night, according to Neely, he was suddenly awakened by violent knocking at the front and back doors of his Sterling Street home and before he could answer, both doors were battered in.

He was seized in his night clothes, a bag thrown over his head and although shoeless, was forced into the street and into the lead car of a 20-auto cavalcade, which immediately drove a short distance from the city.

Twenty cars were in the motorcade which took him to a lonely spot beyond the city limits. Arrived there, they questioned him at length concerning the letter, demanding to know who had helped him compose it.

After he denied getting help, Neely was tossed from one of the cars in front of the home of a white lawyer who has been hailed as a champion of fair-play and justice.

Neely was given an overcoat by the lawyer, who then called a taxi.

## LETTER PRINTED IN WHITE DAILY STIRS MOBBISTS

GREENVILLE, S. C., Nov. 16.—Elred D. Neely, world war veteran and past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post here, whose scathing letter denouncing the Ku Klux Klan was printed in a local daily paper, following beatings and a reign of terrorism throughout the community, was abducted last Monday night in a near-freezing temperature.

The members of the Klan broke down the doors of his home, threw a bag over his head and took him for a ride, minus shoes and in his night clothes. After the letter was printed, Neely took the stump, speaking on street corners against the Klan telling white audiences what he and other Negroes intended doing to change conditions in the South.

# White Southerners Urge Federal Action Against Klan For Assault On Negro War Veteran

Greenville, S. C., Dec. 8 (AP)—Oscar H. Doyle of Anderson, U.S. attorney for the western district of South Carolina this week confirmed that Joseph A. Tolbert, prominent white attorney, had urged that Federal action be taken against the local Ku Klux Klan for the Nov. 24 abduction of Elrod Neely, well known colored resident here and a war veteran.

Attorney Tolbert is prominent in state and national Republican circles, is a former U. S. attorney for this district and has been the outstanding champion of the Negro's cause in the present Klan issue. District Attorney Doyle said that Attorney Tolbert had given him a full report of the Neely incident. In his reply Doyle said he pointed out that the government was without jurisdiction in the matter.

Neely was taken from his home by a band of Klansmen who drove away in cars whose license plates had been covered. Then, after being questioned, Neely was stripped of his clothing and left on the porch of Attorney Tolbert's home. The weather was cold and Neely suffered greatly from shock and exposure. Cause of the Klan action against him was said to be an article, signed by Neely and attacking local Klan activities, which appeared in a local daily paper. The Greenville board of aldermen at its last meeting went on record as "requesting" Chief of Police Smith to "ask" the head of the Klan not to parade so much in Negro districts of the city. When Mayor McCullough was asked what the outcome would be if the Klan would not accede to the "request," he replied "the law will be enforced."

Chief of Police Smith, when questioned as to the "request" of the city council had nothing to say other than that he had not yet conferred with Fred V. Johnson, local Klan head and known as "the only unmasked Klansman in South Carolina."

The local Klan during the past few months, have committed about every crime but murder in and around Greenville. The night following the request of the city council, the Klan staged a parade down the main street of the city.

Reproduced, word for word, the Klan's challenge to the Government read as follows:

## Circular Issued By S. C. Klan

Oppose Race  
Man Holding

### FSA Position

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(AP)—The boldness which prompts the Ku Klux Klan to flout constituted authority and set itself up as a law unto itself reached a new high this week when a Klan circular flouting the authority of a branch of the Federal Government made its appearance here.

The Klan circular was distributed over Greenville County Tuesday night, December 7. The circulars are dated October 24, but they did not appear until this week. They undoubtedly refer to a visit of William Street, Negro Field representative, Tenant Purchase Section, Farm Security Administration, said to be from Tuskegee.

There has been a rumor here for some time that a Negro who holds an executive position with the Farm Bureau was to be located in the upper part of South Carolina. Apparently the Klan wishes otherwise, and if he is scheduled to come many believe that he will get an assignment to some other place, so strong is the Klan here.

Done and ratified in the Klavern of Fork Shoals Provisional Klan, Realm of South Carolina, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, at Fork Shoals, this the 24th day of October, 1939.

### FROM THE KU KLUX KLAN

Resolution Reveals Employment of Negro in Official Capacity in Greenville County by Farm Security Administration. Where, it is

Whereas, it has come to the attention of Fork Shoals Klan, Realm of South Carolina, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, that a Negro man has been sent to Greenville County by the Farm Security Administration to investigate and advise on the work of Rural Rehabilitation and that said Negro has visited a number of farms in this county accompanied by the Supervisor of Farm Security Administration for Greenville County and a lady assistant in his office, and

Whereas the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan vigorously, unflinchingly and uncompromisingly believe in and stand for White Supremacy and are opposed to Negroes acting in any official capacity in connection with governmental affairs, and

Whereas, under the present administration much influence has been brought to bear upon Negroes that has caused the assumption of an arrogant attitude on their part,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Fork Shoals Provisional Klan, Realm of South Carolina, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in regular Klunklave assembled,

FIRST: That the sending of said Negro to this county to act in an executive or business capacity is hereby uncompromisingly condemned.

SECOND: That the official responsible for his appearance in this county be, and he is hereby requested to, recall him from this section and that no Negroes be sent here in any official capacity in the future.

THIRD: That copies of the Resolution be sent to the Supervisor of Farm Security Administration of Greenville County, the State Director, Regional Director, Secretary of Agriculture, Congressman from fourth district, Senators from South Carolina and a copy given to the Press.

Done and ratified in the Klavern of Fork Shoals Provisional Klan, Realm of South Carolina, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, at Fork Shoals, this the 24th day of October, 1939.

## POSSIBLE ACTION MAY BE STARTED BY U. S. AGENCY

Greenville, S. C. News

November 25, 1939

Complaint Is Second Filed By  
City Attorney In Stripping  
Of Negro

### LEFT ON DOORSTEP

A Department of Justice spokesman in Washington said yesterday that the department had received a complaint from Joseph A. Tolbert, Greenville attorney, charging that negroes in the Greenville area had been subjected to abuse by roving bands of the Ku Klux Klan.

The complaint was being investigated as a source of possible action by the Justice department, the spokesman said. He added that no further statement would be made until the investigation was completed.

### LETTER MISDIRECTED

Although the Tolbert letter had been mailed several days ago, it was not received at the Justice department until yesterday afternoon. The spokesman explained it had been directed to "another agency."

He expressed the opinion that if action were taken by any branch of the department on the complaint it would most likely be by the civil liberties unit.

### IS SECOND COMPLAINT

A previous complaint by Tolbert to District Attorney Oscar H. Doyle, of Anderson, brought the reply that the federal attorney could find no jurisdictional grounds for action.

Tolbert filed the complaint after a band of robed and masked men had taken a negro World War veteran from his home at night, stripped him of his clothes and left him on Tolbert's doorstep in that condition. The negro previously had written a communication to a local newspaper condemning activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

## G-MEN ASKED TO PROBE KLAN ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 21 — A telegram asking the Justice Department to investigate the most recent activity of the Ku Klux Klan in South Carolina, which is

seeking to keep Negroes from voting in the 1940 elections, was sent to Attorney General Frank Murphy today, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The telegram was sent following the arrest of J. A. Briar, 69-year-old president of the Greenville (S.C.) branch of the N.A.A.C.P. December 1, on the charge of carrying a concealed weapon. The arrest of Mr. Briar is one of a series of criminal actions spurred by the Klan since William Anderson, 19-year-old N.A.A.C.P. youth leader in Greenville, organized a group of Negroes to register there last August. Anderson was later arrested on a frame-up charge and his case is pending on appeal.

## KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier  
February 8, 1939

### Where the Battle Ground is

Dr. Hiram Evans, "imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan", is reported by The Associated Press as having asserted in Columbia S. C., that "one of the objectives of the Klan is to minimize the part the negro plays in the Democratic party". No masked and sheeted men are needed in the South for the objectives of Dr. Evans, no such method were employed in 1876, and they would be without shadow of excuse now. The national Democratic party wishes the negroes, hire them in the North, to join it, and if Dr. Evans and his Klan would have a field for their activities they can find it in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis and Jersey City. To oppose the reception of negroes into the national Democratic party, which Senator Byrnes says, is controlled by negroes, would be to scuttle that party. In the South they are rendering a service by peddling hate room for a white party of Democrats independent of the national negro Democratic party, and, discarding masks and all secrecy, it could choose members of the Electoral College for their states. The Electoral College elects the president and the vice president. In the South the negroes are giving the white people no political trouble, and the Klan, if it must wage war against the negroes in politics, should carry the war to the Northern cities where they are in the field.

Columbia, S. C. State  
February 14, 1939

### THE KLAN—SHALL IT GLIDE AGAIN?

What's the explanation of the rejuvenation of the Ku Klux Klan? Has some magician performed a monkey operation on that feeble or der—the kind of operation that makes a young monkey of an old man, and an old man of a young monkey?

Or are men losing their senses of humor, as they do in times of stress, and therefore do not know that the only thing funnier than a man in an old fashioned nightshirt is a man under a white fool's cap and a long sheet?

The motives of the men who organize and promote such funny organizations as the Klan are easy to understand. There's money in it, and also it is quite likely those men believe they are doing a service by peddling hate or something. Men who render disservices almost always can deceive themselves into believing they are doing the reverse of what they are doing. One need not go to the secret, snoopy, spooky organizations to learn that.

If he wishes to stay out late at night, he might tell his wife the usual bed time stories and get away with them. Or, if he thinks the Jews or the Negroes or the Catholics or the New Dealers or the Republicans or the Baptists, Methodists, Oxfordians, Christian Scientists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians or any other set or sect is about to destroy the country, why not come out like a man and say it in the open? The constitution confers that right upon him, and citizenship imposes that duty. No man should remain silent or inactive if he thinks his country in peril. But why talk through holes in a tall white cone placed upon his head?

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### SO. CAROLINA KKK AND NEGRO VOTERS

"A call has been issued by Fred V. Johnson head of the Ku Klux Klan in this city asking that all Klansmen rally to the aid of "white supremacy" to prevent the registration and voting of Negroes in the municipal primary September 12. Johnson has inserted advertisements in the Greenville daily papers calling upon Klansmen to prevent Negro registration."

*Carolina*  
The above news item was recently released to the press by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It shows the bold attempt on the part of the Klan to prevent the Negroes from voting and to thus cheat them of their constitutional rights. All of the Ku Klux Klan members who plan to champion this cause should be prosecuted under a charge of conspiracy to violate the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Then, too, this looks to us as though it is a good case for the Dies committee to investigate. Surely this committee would have little or no trouble in finding out and identifying the persons who are members of the Klan and who are taking part in this scheme to keep the Negroes from voting through fear, intimidation, violence, etc. The Federal Bureau of Investigation with its authority might investigate this case, gather the evidence and assist in the prosecution of the guilty.

1-28-39  
Of course, in the absence of the assistance of the United States government which should be forthcoming, the Negroes of Greenville, South Carolina, should turn to the same tactics that were resorted to by the colored people in Miami, Florida, recently. They should get together in large numbers and go to the polls and vote in defiance of the threat from the Ku Klux Klan. In cases of this sort there are always some white people who are in favor of the Negroes in these communities voting and will lend encouragement to those who have the courage to defy the Klan. This support can be had if the Negroes will ally themselves with the anti-Klan forces in the community. Experience in Florida shows that with the Negroes supporting the anti-Klan ticket the Klan naturally lost the election. And the same sort of procedure will, no doubt, enable the colored people in South Carolina to win their fight.

## Hooded Band Beats Negroes

Greenville, Sept. 24—(AP)—Police officers in Simpsonville and Fountain Inn reported today that a band of about 50 hooded men rode through their towns late Saturday night, stopping long enough to beat an undetermined number of Negroes and spread consternation through Negro sections.

Members of the band, officers said, wore white robes and hoods. They rode in ten automobiles.

Chief of Police J. G. Armstrong said that he understood that between 15 and 20 Negroes were beaten in Fountain Inn but he could not determine whether or not any of them were seriously injured.

"They were so frightened that apparently they have either left town or are afraid to talk," he explained.

At Simpsonville the band rode down an alley on which Negro business establishments are located and entered several pool halls and cafes, Chief of Police J. M. Godfrey stated.

"I didn't see them beat anybody but I have been told that they struck several Negro men. I saw one man who had been struck across the face, but he said he didn't know what hit him," Godfrey said.

In both towns, officers reported Negroes were shoved off sidewalks and pulled from parked cars by the hooded band. No arrests have been made.

## Klan Flogs S.C. Citizens

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(AP)—More than fifty white men in Ku Klux Klan regalia rode through Simpsonville and Fountain Inn late Sunday night, beat an undetermined number of Negroes and then fled, police reported on Monday.

Simpsonville and Fountain Inn are small towns close to Greenville, where Klan activity, when colored citizens registered in large numbers for the city elections a few months ago, brought a Federal investigation after several organizations lodged formal protests in Washington.

Police Chief J. G. Armstrong said that between fifteen and twenty persons were flogged in Fountain Inn. According to Police Chief J. M. Godfrey of Simpsonville, the Klansmen entered several pool halls and cafes.

## Klansmen Flog Negroes Near Greenville, S.C.

### Hooded Men In Regalia At Ride Thru Towns, Attack Citizens

GREENVILLE, S. C., Sept.—(AP)—More than 50 hooded men in Ku Klux Klan regalia rode through Simpsonville and Fountain Inn late Sunday night, beat an undetermined number of Negroes, and then fled, police reported Monday.

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## "THE KU KLUX KLAN RIDES AGAIN"

*Evening 10-28-39 Bullitt Pa.*

These Are Notices Posted By Hooded Klansmen in Darlington, S. C.—Say "White Supremacy Must Be Maintained—Burn Cross."

DARLINGTON, S. C., Oct. 26—With two muffled figures carrying United States flags, riding on the front fenders of the leading car, a long line of automobiles filed through various sections of this county

Tuesday evening.

The procession wound up here at about midnight, cars were parked in the courthouse square, and the robed figures gathered in a tight circle in the center of which a "fiery cross" was soon observed blazing.

When the fire had at last died out the crowd dispersed with the exception of a group of a dozen or so whose members proceeded to tack up notices throughout the town announcing "the Ku Klux Rides Again," and that "white supremacy must be maintained."

No attempt was made by officers here or elsewhere to interfere with the sheeted visitors, or to identify them or elsewhere to interfere with the sheeted visitors, or to identify them. The reason for the demonstration remains a mystery, as there is no ill-feeling or friction between races in any section of the State, and none is anticipated.

Police Chief J. G. Armstrong said that between 15 and 20 Negroes were flogged in Fountain Inn. According to Police Chief J. M. Godfrey of Simpsonville, the Klansmen entered several pool halls and cafes.

### Masked Men Invade Greenville and Beat All Negroes Women and Children

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(AP)—Klan meeting Monday night, and exaggerated" and ride again.

The statement said:

"We Klansmen of today cannot compromise with the dangerous forces in our midst and we will not surrender, violate no law, mistreat no person, preserve white supremacy in South Carolina.

"Ride on, Klansmen, ride on. The order prohibiting you from appearing in public in your robes is hereby rescinded."

The statement said a ban had been issued on outdoor demonstrations pending investigation of reports that some Klansmen had mistreated Negroes.

### Protest Brutality Of Carolina Klan

GREENVILLE, S. C. (AP)—A wave of protest has followed the recent invasion of two South Carolina towns by a masked band of 75 armed men. These bushwackers

groups, admitted to be members of the Ku Klux Klan by the Grand Dragon of South Carolina, perpetrated a dastardly crime against present-day American civilization. Sweeping down on the little communities of Fountain Inn and Simpsonville the Klansmen searched, robbed and then beat all Negroes who were on the streets.

A reliable white eye witness stated that women and children were pulled from cars and slapped and kicked. Colored men were knocked unconscious. One aged Negro in Simpsonville is still suffering from the effects of the beating he received.

The entire press of the state have carried almost daily editorials condemning the actions of these Klansmen.

Some papers in the state have noted the "Nazi technique" of these hooded raiders. The type of sawed-off shotguns carried by the Klansmen can be found nowhere except in police barracks and were undoubtedly purchased for some other purpose than to scare Negroes who "hog the sidewalks." There is a grave menace in South Carolina and the decent white people realize it and are demanding that the authorities conduct a vigorous investigation.

To date no arrests have been made; the Governor has ordered, however, that the constabulary begin a full investigation. Rev. Fred V. Johnson (he at one time claimed to be an ordained Baptist minister) spokesman for the Klan, was given a statement to the press.

Admitting that the Klan was responsible for these raids, he called attention to the fact that no Negroes were killed and on the whole the press had exaggerated the affair. "The Klan has received letters and verbal reports from towns visited complimenting them on the good accomplished," he said. (Merchants in Fountain Inn report a loss of several thousand dollars last Saturday as a result of the Klan invasion a week previous).

Recalling the mad rush of Klansmen in 1933, when George Green an aged Negro, was killed by a hooded band, to turn state's evidence to save their own hides citizens have no doubt that when a few of the perpetrators in the present crisis are arrested they will name their accomplices.

## Smash His Doors And Wait

*Journal and Guide*

10-25-31

False Alarm

### Summons Crowd and Police

*Merriam, Va.*

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(AP)—The Ku Klux Klan took spite out, on Jim Brier president and organizer of the local NAACP, for the registration of Negro voters here last summer.

The dreaded Klan swooped down on the Brier home last week, broke down the doors, when nobody answered their knocks, went in and waited about the house for over thirty minutes and inquired of his whereabouts.

It so happened that Mr. and Mrs. Brier were not at home to greet their uninvited guests.

During the Klan stay in front of his home someone turned in a false alarm and the sirens of the engines added to the excitement. A large crowd of Negroes gathered and a number on the outskirts of the crowd reportedly were armed. The two police officers present were informed by one of the Klansmen: "We were the first here but we're not going to be the first to leave, now understand that." No arrests were made.

KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

# HOODED MEN INVADE GREENVILLE; FLOG COLORED CITIZENS

Liken Klan's Treatment of Negroes to Hitler's Persecution of Jews; Demand U. S. Action

GREENVILLE, S. C. — (AP)—Recent activity of the Ku Klux Klan in various parts of Greenville county, and the brutal methods employed against Negroes in driving home the idea of a "white supremacy," have led many to conclude that the present reign of terror is Nazi-inspired if not actually subsidized by Nazi agents.

Because of the Klan's adoption of Nazi methods, many citizens here were insistent that action be taken by U. S. Attorney General Frank Murphy and J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice.

A previous request for an investigation by FBI Chief Hoover, was reportedly without avail. It was also declared that the investigation of Klan activities during the registration of Negro voters by the Department of Justice has so far resulted in no action by FBI men.

#### To Ferret Out Propagandists

However, in Washington on last Thursday, Attorney General Murphy reportedly said the justice department was prepared to act at the appropriate time against certain "conspicuous foreign agents who have become a nuisance." The attorney general disclosed that the FBI had obtained evidence of propaganda sent to citizens of this country from foreign nations, but he declined to name any of the countries.

Klan demonstrations are no new thing for the county's colored population. For years from time to time the hooded order has paraded, burned crosses and issued warnings. Save for the murder of George Green, aged Negro farmer, on November 16, 1933, no violence has been attempted.

The Green murder was a foul affair. His only crime was his failure to agree with his landlord on the crop settlement. His attempt to drive the klanmen from his premises resulted in his death. A number of alleged klan members were tried for the crime, but were acquitted, on alibis established by their wives.

In late years, the Klan has been rather quiet confining themselves to protests in the form of resolutions to the papers. These protests covered a wide variety of subjects from the protesting the employment of a Negro janitor in an office building where white charity patients came, to requests that Negroes be not allowed to use a balcony in a local theater. On the whole the better element of both races paid little or no attention to the Klan.

#### Registration Spurs Klan

With the coming of August of this year and unprecedented registration of colored citizens, the Klan took on new life. Advertisements were inserted in the daily papers calling upon white citizens to join and "maintain white supremacy and the virtue of our white womanhood." Some persons wondered how the virtue was to be violated until in less than 10 days three Negroes were arrested on cases involving white women.

The Klan said that the first reaction the Negro has when he demands political equality is "an association with our women." No mention was made that one of these "black brutes" was a 14-year-old boy who, when brought to trial was acquitted. The second, William Anderson, president of the Youth council, is out on bond and has the pledge of the Youth councils throughout the country of their support at his next trial. Jerry Owens, who in ordinary times would have received 90 days for his offense, has been sentenced to 15 years.

There were evidences of a more subtle mind directing Klan activities in Greenville county. A statement by Fred V. Johnson showed a Nazi influence. In part, Johnson said in a statement to the press, "The position of the Klan on the question of white supremacy is the same as it has always been, which is that God created the races separate and distinct from each other, that the white or Caucasian race is superior to the colored race, and that it is to the best interest of all concerned that we have an absolute segregation of the races."

If Nazi is substituted for Klan,

Germanic race for white race, Aryan for Caucasian, Jewish race for colored race, and Jews for Negroes, the statement would read as follows: "The position of the Nazis on the question of Germanic supremacy is the same as it has always been, which is that God created the races separate and distinct from each other, that the Germanic or Aryan race is superior to the Jewish race and that it is to the best interests of all concerned that we have an absolute segregation of all the races."

#### Klan Adopts Hitler Tactics

Lately the Klan sorties have taken on a more military appearance. The large variety of weapons formerly carried have been discarded for sawed-off guns of the same make. A number carry high caliber rifles of an expensive make, and all carry blackjacks of standard size and shape.

Thirty days ago the Klan started demonstrations which were confined to the city limits. Several Negro establishments were visited and the proprietors warned to keep better order. A few crosses were burned, and some Negroes reported they had been struck by missiles thrown from the cars of the hooded riders. The only casualty in these city demonstrations was a 10-year-old boy, who, fascinated by the hooded band, failed to move as ordered and as a result was kicked and slapped. Ten days ago, the Klan staged a demonstration in the neighboring town of Belton.

Here different methods were used. Belton Negroes were charged with "hogging" the sidewalk and acting in a loud and boisterous manner. Upon entering the tiny Negro quarter in Belton, the Klan stopped all Negroes, searched them, confiscated their weapons and some few were struck. Several deputy sheriffs and town policemen viewed the proceedings, but did nothing, although a South Carolina statute was being violated. It is against the law in South Carolina to intimidate any person while masked.

#### Spread Terror Among Negroes

Came Saturday night a week later. Fountain Inn is best known to the world as the home of Robert Quillen, one of America's ace columnists. The streets are full of roistering, laughing Negroes. It is cotton picking time, and most of the Negroes have money. Suddenly, 15 cars pulled up and disgorged 75 white robed figures. All are armed. With the precision of a trained body of soldiers, the hooded men take positions. Those armed with high powered rifles place themselves at strategic points along the street. At the blast of a whistle, 20 of the masked men move toward the combination barber shop and lunch room operated by a Negro. Ten of these men carry sawed-off shotguns, the others blackjacks dangling from their wrists. A terse command of "stand up, face the wall and hold up your hands." Another short blast of the whistle and three Klansmen move forward and start searching the Negroes.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Trained In Searching

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 9

Apparently they have been trained for the business of searching. Pistols and knives are confiscated. Loose change is dropped on the floor at their feet. If the Negroes have any bills, they do not reach the floor with the change. Perhaps folding money is a weapon, too. The Klansmen stand back. Another blast beating and threatening of citizens of the whistle and the whippings in the Simpsonville and Fountain Inn communities by bands of experienced men; it is ad-masked and hooded men, many ministered with a fury that would put Hitler's storm troops to shame.

Negroes fall to the floor bleeding and semi-conscious. One youth, as he falls, rolls toward the Klansmen, pronouncement of Klan officials he is kicked back. Outside the that members of the organization screams of women and children had been ordered to mistreat no mingle with the groans of the one, especially since the identity men. As suddenly as it started a blast of the whistle stops it. The robed and hooded raiders of the robed figures file out. One sheeted two communities referred to and figure stops to pick up a half dollar from the floor. His robe trips others similarly attired who have him and he falls to his knees. He is paid several visits to a Negro NYA helped up and turns and delivers a project in another county, has ever sharp blow across the face of one been disclosed—hundreds of Negro still standing.

As silently as they came, they in a constant state of apprehension move off. At Simpsonville, another village nearby, a number of Negroes were beaten and one colored woman was stripped of all her clothes. The blood-splattered floor of the barber shop in Fountain Inn action by Governor B. R. May.

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# KLAN MENACE CONTINUES IN SO. CAROLINA

## Greenville Police Mobilized For Invasion, No Ku Kluxers Appear

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP) — Last Saturday night following a rumor that the Ku Klux Klan, cocky as result of their recent raids on the towns of Belton, Fountain Inn and Simpsonville—had planned a raid on Greenwood, the law enforcement agencies here immediately got busy.

The mayor and chief of police stationed men at all entrances to the city and the entire police force was mobilized at the City hall, ready to meet force with force. The Kluxers failed to appear. Both colored and white residents were loud in praise of Mayor Devore Andrews and Police Chief Hunter, declared they were made of sterner stuff than officials in other South Carolina towns.

Older residents here declare that the wave of protests from both races, following raids on the other towns is convincing proof of the brutality of the hooded mob. They said the West in its palmiest days, did not compare with it. men, women and children were brutally beaten and if any of the victims had money on them it was taken by the raiders.

### Business Loss \$25,000

Greenville residents declare that \$25,000 is a conservative estimate of the loss in business to merchants of the raided towns. Negro workers have money in the Fall and rural storekeepers look forward to it as their busiest season.

A colored citizen here much in the public eye this week is Elrod D. Neely, past commander of Adal Thompson Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Veteran Neely has been widely commended by both races, for his courage in writing an open letter, printed in the Greenville Piedmont, white daily paper, condemning the brutal Klan activities. It is unthinkable for a Negro to lambast the Klan down here. Neely not only did so, but signed the letter and also gave his address. Excerpts from Neely's fiery letter:

#### Defends Klan

"A statement in defense of the action of the Ku Klux Klan was made by Mr. Johnson, head of the Klan in Greenville, a few days ago. In this statement he accused Negroes of hogging the streets in certain towns and pushing white women off the streets. Inasmuch as no

open conflict has arose from any such action except that of the Klan there is no need to debate the error of the charge.

"Everyone with any knowledge of our southland knows that Negroes would not stoop to such a practice. If any such act had occurred every decent person would favor the law taking charge rather than a group whose practices are as vicious as those of any group of gangsters and equalled only by other acts of the same organizations and perhaps the most ruthless of Hitler's police.

#### Statement False

"The statement that no Negro had been beaten or mistreated is equally false. There is every evidence that many Negroes were beaten and robbed at the point of repeating rifles.

"The action of the Klan was not only brutal but cowardly—cowardice raised to the nth degree. It not only was cowardly and brutal but moreover represented a federal offense. The civil right bill definitely states that it is a misdemeanor for anyone to disguise or hood themselves with the intent of molesting any person.

"When the world is hot to pieces with war and strife as our world is today, it would seem that some nation somewhere in the world would try to be decent and rid itself of one of the hypocrisy.

"We wait the action of our city and county police force and the constabulary of the state. How long will it be before America will rightly be classed with barbaric Germany and Russia? How long will decent South Carolinians allow such outlaws as the Ku Klux Klan exist in our land?"

## KLUXXERS!

Continue their Forays in  
Carolina Towns—Green-  
wood Police Stationed at  
All Entrances to Town.

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11-21-34

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## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT URGED TO ACT IN KLAN BRUTALITIES

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—The continued lawless activity of the Ku Klux Klan in South Carolina and by raid attacks on Negro citizens, is an effort to prevent colored citizens in this state from voting in 1940.

This was the view expressed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in letters of protest to the Department of Justice. In two letters the association called for federal action to punish Klansmen. In South Carolina who last September 25 beat and maimed Negro citizens in Simpsonville and Fountain Inn, S. C.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
November 5, 1939

## RAIDERS, SAY CAROLINA NYA REPORTS

### Negroes Warned 'Your Place Is in Cotton Patch'

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 4.—(United Press) — The fiery cross of the Ku Klux Klan is reported burning again in South Carolina.

First from private citizens in the northern part of the state, then from Dr. Roger L. Coe, state director of the National Youth Administration, came reports of night raiders and hooded men.

"They came in the night, beat innocent negroes, then vanished as swiftly as they came," said reports from Simpsonville and Fountain Inn in the Piedmont section.

Dr. Coe said the raiders, operating in cars, had made two trips to Camp Styx, a NYA camp for negroes near Columbia. On the first visit the raiders posted placards: "Ku Klux Klan rides again"; "White supremacy must be maintained." He said the men in hoods told the negroes: "Your place is in the cotton patch."

#### Poster Tacked to Tree

A poster, tacked on a tree during the second raid on Camp Styx, read:

"While government agencies spend tax money to feed, clothe and house hundreds of negro youths in comfort . . . white women . . . are picking cotton and working in textile mills to support themselves and their children."

"This is wrong and must be stopped."

"It is time the negroes in this camp went to work and the white men and women at the head of this agency spent their time in helping the country instead of trying to put whites and blacks on social equality."

Dr. Coe reported the raids to Sheriff H. Cromer Oswald, Lexington county, and later to Gov. Burnet R. Maybank. He said the negroes, about 100 boys and 40 girls, were frightened badly but none was molested.

#### Governor Orders Inquiry

Governor Maybank, following a conversation with Dr. Coe and the receipt of letters from private citizens near Simpsonville and Fountain Inn, ordered an immediate investigation by the state constabulary.

Chief J. Henry Jeannes of the constabulary said his men would look into the reports at once, and "we stand ready at any time to assist sheriffs in any situation which they feel they cannot adequately handle." He said there had been no sign of the night riders since their second trip to the negro NYA camp. No trouble has been reported from any other county.

"I have seen nothing of these bands," said Sheriff Oswald.

Fiery crosses were reported set afame by the hooded men on Monticello road, several miles from Camp Styx.

# N. C. Kluxers Invade Man's Home, Break Down Doors—He's Out!

Intended Victim Is President of Greenville, S. C. Branch of N. A. A. C. P.—No Arrests Made.

GREENVILLE, S. C., Nov. 22—(ANP)—The long-deferred visit of the Klan to Jim Brier, popular local colored resident, materialized last Wednesday night. Brier is the president and organizer of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., and it is on him that the Ku Klux Klan has placed the blame for registration of the Negro voters last summer.

Fortunately Brier was not at home, neither was his wife. When there was no response to their knocks, the Klansmen broke down the doors and invaded his home. They remained about the house for over 30 minutes and he inquired as to his whereabouts.

Jim Brier has long been a dignified leader in Greenville. For a number of years he was principal of one of the local colored schools. Previous to that he held several responsible official positions. He is noted for his abstemious habits and his activity in church affairs. He was the leader in the registration movement last summer when nearly 600 colored folk obtained their registration certificates.

During the Klan stay in front of his home someone turned in a false alarm and the sirens of the engines added to the excitement. A large crowd of Negroes gathered and at the spacious ballroom of the number on the outskirts of the crowd reportedly were armed. The two police officers present were informed by one of the Klansmen: "We were the first here but we're not going to be the first to leave. Over 300 delegates from all sections of the state were present, now understand that." No arrests were made. The hood and license plates of the cars carrying the Klansmen, as usual, were covered with white cloth.

Congressman Joseph B. Bryson of South Carolina was the principal speaker. Other speakers were Howard Lee of Chattanooga, Tenn., executive secretary of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare, and Alton Lawrence of Chapel Hill, N. C., a representative of the North Carolina League for Progressive Democracy.

The convention passed the reso-

lution condemning the Klan without reservations and unanimously. Several persons spoke on Klan activities in the state. One speaker remarked that it was impossible for law abiding citizens (Negroes) to walk alone after dark because of Klan molestation.

A. A. C. P. president, who was active in getting Negroes to register for the recent election. So far they haven't found him. But there have been mutterings of discontent among other residents, and it is believed that a bloody riot will result if the Klan continues its activities with authorities making no effort to stop them. Klansmen who paraded at Anderson were from Greenville. They occupied 36 cars and numbered about 100 hooded men. A traffic jam developed at a street intersection when someone in a Negro cafe cursed the Kluxers. Several of the robed men leaped from cars and invaded the restaurant, but no one was molested.

## Intimidation Continues

They also tried to go into a poolroom, but the white proprietor locked the door. The Klansmen told him they would be back later. A second cafe was given a casual once-over after two colored men standing in front were searched. The two men laughed while the search was going on. Then his identity, he strips himself of observation and criticism, two influences that would help him if he would let them.

All history could tell him that secret Klan government does not remain sane, but asked Mayor Sullivan for a parade permit, the city official told him the nightriders weren't needed in Anderson and there was no bad feeling between the races. Johnson then said that after the next election the Klan would banish as he, were jailed for unspeakable to parade when it wished. able violations of women!

## No Good in Secret Government

Meanwhile at nearby Anderson last week Mayor Sullivan refused official permission for a Klan parade. Kluxers paraded anyway. Police were concentrated on Main street, additional men placed on duty, radio cars located at strategic points, a fire truck with hose line held in readiness and teargas equipment made ready—just in case.

### Buy Guns, Ammunition

Temper of Negro Greenville was established on contact with house of a Negro there because he had citizens and businesses. A large mail order house reported Saturday that its entire stock of shot-guns had been sold out to Negroes. One of the biggest hardware stores reported the largest sale of shells in history the past week to Negroes.

The Klan has been parading nightly through the colored district hunting Jim Brier, local N. racy, the principle which inspires pa-

triotism in America.

It is possible that the head of the Klan is honest and wishes an end of the old ruffianism. But he cannot control Klansmen. Any man who joins an organization which depends for its power on terrorism built on secrecy and threats is far more given to violating the decencies of life than to supporting principles. He thinks himself a superman, a Goliath before whom thousands turn and flee. Having no fear, he has no check on his thoughts and goes his way unthinkingly.

A Klansman may say he is a patriot, he may even entertain the thought that his bigotry is a contribution to national life, but reasoning which is that bad indicates either inability to think or wrong. From the moment he cloaks himself, he strips himself of observation and criticism, two influences that would help him if he would let them.

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# WHITE SOUTHERNER URGES GOVERNMENT TO ACT AGAINST KLAN

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 7. (ANP)—Oscar H. Doyle of Anderson, U.S. attorney for the western district of South Carolina, this week confirmed reports that Joseph A. Tolbert, prominent white attorney, had urged that federal action be taken against the local Ku Klux Klan or the Nov. 7 abduction of Jerry Neely, well-known colored resident here and a World War veteran.

Atty. Tolbert is prominent in state and national Republican circles, is a former U.S. attorney for this district and has been the outstanding champion of the Negro's cause in the present Klan issue. District Attorney Doyle said that Atty. Tolbert had given him a full report on the Neely incident. In his reply Doyle said he pointed out that the government was without jurisdiction in the matter.

Neely was taken from his home by a band of Klansmen who drove away in cars whose license plates had been covered. Then, after being questioned, Neely was stripped of his clothing and left on the porch of Atty. Tolbert's home. The weather was cold and Neely suffered greatly from shock and exposure. Cause of the Klan action against him was said to be an article, signed by Neely, and attacking local Klan activities, which appeared in a local daily paper.

The Greenville board of aldermen at its last meeting went on record as "requesting" Chief of Police Smith to "ask" the head of terrorism here several months ago the Klan not to parade so much when Negroes registered for the in Negro districts of the city. city elections, considers the NAACP. When Mayor McCullough, was leader responsible in large extent asked what the outcome would be for registrations and the threat to if the Klan would not accede to "white supremacy." The "request," he replied, "the law will be enforced."

Chief of Police Smith, when seize Briar several night questioned as to the "request" of raids, Detectives ~~Report~~ Ballard the city council, had nothing to and R. D. Wood stopped him on say other than that he had nota street Thursday afternoon. After yet conferred with Fred V. John searching him and finding a .32 son, local Klan head and known calibre pistol on a .38 calibre as "the only unmasked Klansman frame, officers asked:

"Who are you going to shoot?"  
"Nobody."

"Then why are you carrying a gun?"

"Well," said Briar, "don't you think circumstances demand that I carry a gun?"

Without answering, the sleuths took him to jail where he was locked up for two and a half hours. He

tration activities and filed an appeal.

But last week Anderson was again sentenced, this time to \$52 or 30 days for stealing an overcoat. It is believed there was no frame-up in this case.

## Arresting Officers Report Finding Gun On 69-Year-Old Man

### Trouble Began When Group Of Negroes Took Part in City Election; Briar Blamed

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—There may be no connection between official Greenville and the Ku Klux Klan, but observers here are inclined to doubt it following the arrest last week of James A. Briar, 69-year-old N.A.A.C.P. branch president, on charges of carrying a gun and confis-

cation of the weapon.

Mr. Briar's home has been visited on several occasions by Klansmen but he was always out." The hooded chief of order, which began its reign of Police Smith to "ask" the head of terrorism here several months ago the Klan not to parade so much when Negroes registered for the in Negro districts of the city. city elections, considers the NAACP. When Mayor McCullough, was leader responsible in large extent asked what the outcome would be for registrations and the threat to if the Klan would not accede to "white supremacy." The "request," he replied, "the law will be enforced."

#### FIND CLIPPINGS

Detective Chief L. W. Hammond said a number of newspaper clippings was found on Briar dealing with Klan activities and beatings administered to Negroes in this area, colored registration for the city elections, violators of civil rights and cheap labor. He also had a copy of the NAACP constitution and by-laws for branches and an appeal for funds to help defend two men, Jerry Owens and William Anderson.

Anderson, 19, president of the local NAACP youth council, several months ago was found guilty on disorderly conduct and breach of the peace charges for allegedly trying to make a date with a white girl. He declared it was a frame-up as the result of his vote regis-

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont  
November 18, 1939

## Johnson Says Klan Can Hold No Anderson Demonstration Until 'After Next Election'

State Head Of K. K. K. Americans and the Klan is committed in its program to combat Communism and all alienisms that are contrary and opposed to Americanism.

**"For Free Press, Speech"**  
The Anderson Independent today carried the following article:

Fred V. Johnson of Greenville, Gentile, Protestant, American citizen who signs himself as the Chief of Staff of the Ku Klux Klan in the South Carolina, last night issued a statement: free speech, free press, free public

"I was surprised to learn through the columns of The Independent of Friday that the mayor of Anderson was seemingly so upset and alarm-program of action which has been ed over the demonstration of a held at Anderson and the express-group of Klansmen at Anderson that have come to me in f-Thursday night, for, in a conver-vor of the Klan and its program sation with the mayor Thursday I am prepared to state that I am afternoon, I assured him that the persuad- that the majority of the ride of the Klansmen would be white citizens of Anderson and of orderly and without violence.

"I requested permission from the mayor for the Klansmen to hold a quiet and peaceful demonstration with the burning of a small cross in front of the court house, which permission was denied by the mayor and which denial necessitated the omission of that demonstration by the Klansmen.

"It is apparent that the Klan can hold no public demonstrations in the city of Anderson at least until after the next city election.

**"In Keeping With Program"**

"The appearance of Klansmen at Anderson is in keeping with the program of action which is now in operation by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan throughout the nation, which program was instituted in June by the new Imperial Wizard who predicted that the fiery cross will again blaze from the hilltops of America."

"There has been a gracious response throughout the nation to this program of action for the protection and preservation of a pure Americanism and the maintenance of white supremacy. In South Carolina the response has been wonderful and at Anderson we have met with splendid cooperation and support.

"While white supremacy is threatened in South Carolina by reason of the organization in various cities of the state of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a Communistic organization which aims to secure full and equal rights for negroes, and while the Klan is unflinchingly and uncompromisingly opposed to racial equality and stands, unashamed, for the maintenance of white supremacy and the absolute segregation of the races, this is but one of several principles in which the Klan is militantly interested.

"The Klan's program includes the protection of a pure Americanism

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal  
September 20, 1939

## May Ask Federal Investigation Of Klansmen's Visit To Belton

From Anderson Independent.

The appearance in Belton last Saturday night of some 50 white-robed and masked men, purportedly members of the Ku Klux Klan, will be called to the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union and a federal investigation may be asked, it was learned yesterday from a usually reliable source.

Indications are that the men came to Belton from Greenville. It is claimed that they are the same ones who allegedly resorted to drastic measures several weeks ago when it was discovered that negroes were registering heavily in Greenville in order to be eligible to vote in general election there for the naming of a mayor and several aldermen.

The Belton foray was instigated, it is claimed, by the behavior of a number of negroes who made a habit of congregating on Saturday nights, creating a situation highly irritating to many residents of Belton. The robed men arrived unannounced in Belton about 10 o'clock Saturday night. They casually and quietly walked the streets, according to reports, and ordered particular negroes to head for home.

Occasionally the men entered a negro cafe or pool room, where some of the persons in the place were questioned. Others were ordered to stand with their faces toward the wall, hands upraised, while they were searched. In several cases, it was reported, the robed men found large knives, pistols and knucks.

Some Belton business men, fearing an outbreak of violence, summoned deputies from the county jail. Several deputies responded to the call and joined Belton policemen, but kept in the background watching the demonstration. No acts of violence were reported.

Shortly before midnight, the robed men boarded automobiles which had been left parked just beyond the Belton city limits and left in the direction of Greenville. One man who claims he trailed them at a distance said yesterday that they disbanded in Greenville, after removing their robes.

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compromise with the dangerous forces in our midst and we will not surrender, violate no law, mistreat no person, preserve white supremacy in South Carolina.

"Ride on, Klansmen, ride on. The order prohibiting you from appearing in public in your robes is hereby rescinded."

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The statement said a ban

been issued on outdoor demon

inations pending investigation

ports that some Klansmen

mistreated Negroes.

ment bodies of the state, "of this hooded violence and terrorism."

Some papers in the state have noted the "Nazi technique" of these hooded raiders. The type of sawed off shot guns carried by the Klansmen can be found nowhere except in police barracks and were undoubtedly purchased for some other purpose than to scare Negroes who "hog the sidewalks." There is grave menace in South Carolina, and the decent white people realize it and are demanding that the authorities conduct a vigorous investigation.

### NO ARRESTS MADE

To date no arrests have been made; the Governor has ordered however, that the constabulary begin a full investigation. Rev. Fred V. Johnson (he at one time claimed to be an ordained Baptist minister) spokesman for the Klan, has given a statement to the press. Admitting that the Klan was responsible for these raids, he called attention to the fact that no Negroes were killed and on the whole the press had exaggerated the affair. "The Klan has received letters and verbal reports from towns visited complimenting them on the good accomplished!" (Merchants in Fountain Inn report a loss of several thousand dollars last Saturday as a result of the Klan invasion a week previous.)

Recalling the mad rush of Klansmen in 1933, when George Green, an aged Negro was killed by a hooded band, to turn state's evidence to save their own hides. Citizens have no doubt that when a few of the perpetrators in the present crisis are arrested they will name their accomplices.

## Brutality Of Kluxers Protested

10-9-39  
S. C. Governor  
Orders Full  
Investigation"

GREENVILLE, S. C.—(ANP)—A wave of protest has followed the recent invasion of two South Carolina towns by a masked band of 75 armed men. These bushwacker groups, admitted to be members of the Ku Klux Klan by the Grand Dragon of South Carolina, perpetrated a dastardly crime against present day American civilization. Sweeping down on the little communities of Fountain Inn and Simpsonville the Klansmen searched, robbed and then beat all Negroes who were on the streets.

A reliable white eye witness stated that women and children were pulled from cars, slapped and kicked. Colored men were knocked unconscious. One aged Negro in Simpsonville is still suffering from the effects of the beating he received.

### CONDEMNED BY PRESS

The entire white press of the state carried almost daily editorials condemning the actions of these Klansmen. Ministerial unions throughout the state have adopted resolutions demanding vigorous action by the constituted law enforce-

10-9-39  
The statement said:

"We Klansmen of today cannot

## NIGHT RIDERS ABROAD IN S. C.

Night riders in the Piedmont area of South Carolina are making the nights hideous in that section of the state. This organization which has been revived and reorganized with more force than ever. Some years ago, the Night Riders in Kentucky made that section of the country a lawless region with conditions that bordered on an insurrection between the officers and the members of the organization. However, the Night Riders were finally broken up and their organization disbanded, and for the past twenty years, it has remained in a dormant state.

In our sister state, South Carolina, there seems to be an outbreak on the part of the revived organization that is causing much consternation among the law abiding people of the affected area.

In commenting on the condition, we quote from several of the newspapers published in the section, where outrages have been committed, and are still being kept up.

The Columbia State says: "South Carolina long ago outgrew this sort of thing; that belief, it now appears, was premature. The state is confident, however, that the current outbreak upstate is but an isolated and sporadic reversion to barbarism, with which the generality of South Carolinians have no sympathy. But the commonwealth cannot anywhere allow its realm thus to reel back into the beast. There is not room nor place in the life of the South Carolina of today for 'night-riders.' They should be suppressed with every resource the law commands, and should be made to feel in every possible way the displeasure of their communities.

"These outbreaks of masked hoodlumism upstate are the more lamentable from the fact that inter-racial relations in South Carolina latterly have been good and progressively improving."

The Spartanburg Herald adds:

"All persons who believe in the observance and enforcement of law must condemn these efforts of unknown persons to take the law into their hands. If certain elements in any community disobey city ordinances or the law of the state there are officers elected by the citizens to investigate such violations and make needed arrests. There are courts to punish those who offend the law."

Says the Greenville Piedmont:

"If there are negroes in Simpsonville,

Fountain Inn and Belton who are not having themselves there are ample forces of local and county law enforcement officers, backed by the better people of both races, to see to it that they do.

"Beatings by bands of hooded and white-robed men are unnecessary, unwise, illegal, and calculated to do a great deal more harm than good in the long run both to the cause of law and order and to the cause of harmonious racial relations.

"The great bulk of good citizens disapprove of tactics of that kind and look to the officers of the law to curb them."

Deland, Fla., Sun News

October 13, 1939

## 'KKK RIDING' SAY CAROLINA NYA REPORTS

**Poster Warns Negroes  
That Place In Patch Of  
Cotton; Rumors Of  
Beatings Prove True**

## RESENT UNCLE SAM AIDING THE YOUTHS

COLUMBIA, S. C. Oct. 13—(UP)—  
—The fiery cross of the Ku Klux Klan is reported burning again in South Carolina.

First from private citizens in the northern part of the state, then from Dr. Roger L. Coe, state director of the National Youth Administration, came reports of night raiders and hooded men.

"They came in the night, beat innocent Negroes, then vanished as swiftly as they came," said reports from Simpsonville and Fountain Inn in the Piedmont section.

Dr. Coe said the raiders, operating in cars, had made two trips to Camp Styx, a NYA camp for Negroes near Columbia. On the first visit the raiders posted placards: "Ku Klux Klan rides again"; "White supremacy must be maintained." He said the men in hoods told the Negroes: "Your place is in the cotton patch."

### Poster Tacked to Tree

A poster, tacked on a tree during the second raid on Camp Styx, read:

"While government agencies spend tax money to feed, clothe and

house hundreds of Negro youths in comfort . . . white women . . . are picking cotton and working in textile mills to support themselves and their children.

"This is wrong and must be stopped.

"It is time the Negroes in this camp went to work and the white men and women at the head of this agency spent their time in helping the country instead of trying to put whites and blacks on social equality."

Dr. Coe reported the raids to be declared they were made of stern Sheriff H. Cromer Oswald, Lexington county, and later to Gov. Carolina towns.

Burnet R. Maybank. He said the Older residents here declare that Negroes, about 100 boys and 40 girls, he wave of protests, from both were frightened badly but none was races, following raids on the other unostened.

**Governor Orders Inquiry**  
Gov. Maybank, following a conversation with Dr. Coe and the receipt of letters from private citizens near Simpsonville and Fountain Inn, ordered an immediate investigation by the state constabulary.

Chief J. Henry Jeannes of the constabulary said his men would look into the reports at once, and of the raided towns. Negro workers "we stand ready at any time to have money in the Fall and rural assist sheriffs in any situation which they feel they cannot adequately handle." He said there storekeepers look forward to it as their busiest season.

A colored citizen here much in the public eye this week is Elred D. Neely, past commander of Adal Thompson Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars. Veteran Neely has been widely commended by both races, for his courage in writing an open letter, printed in the Greenville

Piedmont, white daily paper, condemning the brutal Klan activities afame by the hooded men on It is unthinkable for a Negro to lambast the Klan down here. Neely not only did so, but signed the letter and also gave his address. Excerpts from Neely's fiery letter:

"A statement in defense of the action of the Ku Klux Klan was made by Mr. Johnson, head of the Klan in Greenville, a few days ago. In this statement he accused Ne-

## MAYOR AND POLICE OF SOUTH CAROLINA TOWN DEFIE KLAN

### Hooded Terrorists Fail To Make Good Boast to Raid Town When "Law" Told 'em to Come on

GREENVILLE, S. C., Oct. 11  
(ANP)—Last Saturday night followed a rumor that the Ku Klux Klan, cocky as result of their recent raids on the towns of Bolton, Fountain Inn and Simpsonville—had planned a raid on Greenwood, the law enforcement agencies here immediately got busy.

The Mayor and chief of police stationed men at all entrances to the city and the entire police force was mobilized. The City hall ready. *Not in the hall* force with force. The Ku Kluxers failed to appear. Both colored and white residents were loud in praise of Mayor Devore Andrews and Police Chief Hunter.

Dr. Coe reported the raids to be declared they were made of stern Sheriff H. Cromer Oswald, Lexington county, and later to Gov. Carolina towns.

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towns is convincing proof of the brutality of the hooded mob. They said the West in its palmiest days, did not compare with it, that men, women and children were brutally beaten and if any of the victims had money on them it was taken by the raiders.

Greenville residents declare that \$25,000 is a conservative estimate of the loss in business to merchants of the raided towns. Negro workers look into the reports at once, and of the raided towns. Negro workers "we stand ready at any time to have money in the Fall and rural assist sheriffs in any situation which they feel they cannot adequately handle." He said there storekeepers look forward to it as their busiest season.

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"A statement in defense of the action of the Ku Klux Klan was made by Mr. Johnson, head of the Klan in Greenville, a few days ago. In this statement he accused Ne-

groes of hogging the streets in certain towns and pushing white women off the streets. Inasmuch as no open conflict has arisen from any such action except that of the Klan there is no need to debate the error of the charge.

"Everyone with any knowledge of our southland knows that Negroes would not stoop to such a practice. If any such act had occurred every decent person would favor the law taking charge rather than a group whose practices are as vicious as those of any group of gangsters and equalled only by other acts of the same organizations and perhaps the most ruthless of Hitler's secret police.

"The statement that no Negro had been beaten or mistreated is equally false. There is every evidence that many Negroes were beaten and robbed at the point of repeating rifles.

"The action of the Klan was not only brutal but cowardly—cowardice raised to the nth degree. It not only was cowardly and brutal but moreover represented a federal offense. The civil rights bill definitely states that it is a misdemeanor for anyone to disguise or hood themselves with the intent of molesting any person."

"When the world is shot to pieces with war and strife as our world is today, it would seem that some nation somewhere in the world would try to be decent and rid itself of some of the hypocrisy.

"We wait the action of our city and county police force and the constabulary of the state. How long will it be before America will rightly be classed with barbaric Germany and Russia? How long will decent South Carolinians allow such outlaws as the Ku Klux Klan exist in our land?"

## KLU KLUX KLAN - 1939

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier  
September 28, 1939

# Night Riders are Reported Active in Columbia Vicinity

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald  
September 29, 1939

Columbia, Sept. 27.—(P): The Columbia State, a daily newspaper said tonight that "bands of men traveling in automobiles, supposed to be members of the revived Ku Klux Klan, have not confined their activities to the Piedmont section of South Carolina, but have been seen in and around Columbia . . ."

The paper reported that "twice recently, it was said, men have visited the camp in Lexington county for negro boys and girls, operated by the National Youth administration. On the first occasion, the visitors confined their activities largely to posting placards on trees about the camp.

"On these large cardboard placards, in bold type across the top was printed:

"White supremacy must be maintained."

"Under the line were pictures of hooded men, mounted on horses, and under the picture:

"Ku Klux Klan rides again."

The State said that Dr. Roger L. Coe, state NYA administrator, had "no comment" when asked about the incidents, but "it was learned that he (Coe) had called on Governor Maybank with reference to the visits and had also reported the matter to the sheriff of Lexington county.

"It was reported", the paper continued, "that the visitors told the negro boys and girls in the camp that 'the cotton patch is the place for you'. This led some to think that the visitors were trying to get hands to pick cotton.

"Asked about this, Dr. Coe said that the camp furnished cotton pickers for farmers, and that on occasion, trucks came to the camp and transported the pickers to the cotton fields".

The NYA camp Lexington trains negro girls for homemaking and boys in farming pursuits. The State said that Dr. Coe reported "the negroes in the camp were greatly frightened.

"It has been intimated that it might be necessary to move the camp to some other locality".

Hooded bands of men were reported to have visited Fountain Inn and Simpsonville in Greenville county last week and to have beaten and frightened negroes. Governor Maybank said yesterday he had received a "number of complaints"

# Maybank to Probe Night Rider Acts

Columbia, Sept. 28 (P).—Activities of white-robed "night riders" in South Carolina will be investigated by governor's officers, Governor Burnet R. Maybank ordering the probe today as a result of complaints to his office from private citizens.

Announcement of his action followed a conference with Chief J. Henry Jeanes of the officers.

Written complaints, some signed and some anonymous, reached the governor after the hooded groups visited Belton, Fountain Inn, Simpsonville and a national youth administration camp for negroes in Lexington county. Negroes were reported beaten or searched in some instances.

About 100 boys and 40 girls, their ages averaging 18, are being trained at the camp, the girls for homemaking and the boys learning to farm.

State NYA Director Roger L. Coe said the camp would not be moved because of the robed bands.

Sheriff H. Cromer Oswald of Lexington said he had received a report of the two visits to the camp from Coe, adding that "I have seen nothing of these bands and have had no other reports on their activities in this county."

A copy of a notice reported to have been left at the camp, disclosed here, was captioned "Time To Go To Work." Its text was:

"While government agencies spend tax money to feed, clothe and house hundreds of negro youths in comfort and almost luxury, white women in Lexington county are picking cotton and working in textile mills to support themselves and their children. This is wrong and must be stopped.

"It is time the negroes in this camp went to work and the white men and women at the head of this loafing agency spent their time in helping the country instead of trying to put whites and blacks on social equality.

"The eye of scrutiny is upon you."

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier  
September 28, 1939

### Dangerous Fools at Large

Between 1867 and 1871 in the South was a secret society of men who wore masks and robes, took the law into their hands and punished miscreants most of whom were negroes. The society was the answer to intolerable conditions, one of which was the "Union League", or "Loyal League", composed of negroes instigated to crime by foul Carpetbaggers and Scalawags and emboldened by the presence of foreign soldiers.

At that time the government in Washington was not less hostile to the South than is Hitler's government to Poland at this time. Most of the white people were disfranchised.

Soon, very soon, the white society, the Ku Klux Klan, was itself corrupted. Scoundrels got into it, used it for criminal purposes, in cases negroes adopted the disguises. Most of the better citizens withdrew from it, the "dens" or "klans" voluntarily dispersed as soon as the worst conditions came to an end.

When the white people regained the franchise they re-won the control of their country. This they did without disguises, even in states like South Carolina having great negro majorities which voted under the protection of soldiers of the United States.

The United States outlawed the Ku Klux Klan, and some of the best citizens of the South had been sent to prison before the "redemption" by the Red Shirts. Red Shirts, mark, wore no masks or robes. They were daylight riders.

All of this is of record, and lately the story has been admirably told by Stanley Horn, of Nashville, in his book "Invisible Empire". The records are in print in other books, of the late Walter Fleming and John S. Reynolds, and in the reports of the congressional committee.

Now, at this late day, come reports of "night riders" wearing hoods and masks and committing outrages against negroes in Greenville and Anderson counties.

These ruffians, these criminals, should be arrested, tried, convicted and garbed in stripes. If any man be killed the murderers should be put to death.

The crimes are reported from districts

where white people are in overwhelming majority.

In South Carolina the negroes are now outnumbered by the whites more than 150,000.

The courts, the juries, all the offices, state and federal, are held by white men. Masked ruffianism is cowardice. Ruffianism is inexcusable, masked or not.

These ruffians are the enemies of the white South. They are in alliance, however in their ignorance they are unaware of it, of the Northern agitators for negro equality, social as well as political.

They are in partnership with Guffey of Pittsburgh, the negro Vann of the same town, Gavagan of New York, Rainey of Boston (son of a negro congressman of South Carolina), and others powerful in the national Democratic party.

They are the aids and accomplices of the Northern Communists who strive to enlist the negroes in their party, whose candidate for vice president three years ago was a New York negro.

If these people were brave, if they wanted to save their country, they would go after the Northern white men who in the Democratic party conspire with negroes to control the South.

Why resort to shameful practices to scare the poor negroes of South Carolina? They are a well behaved race. Some of our own judges have in recent years said from the bench that more white than negro culprits are brought before them.

These enemies of South Carolina are inviting the federal government to interfere in South Carolina's affairs.

They are providing the Northern agitators with argument for the so-called anti-lynching bill.

They are inviting the congress to enact "force bills" for the control of elections in South Carolina—and our Senator Byrnes already has said on the floor of the senate that negroes control the national Democratic party.

The "night riders" should be locked up for tools if not for criminals.

South in congress, the Guffeys, the Wagners, the Gavagans, and their negro associates, or comrades, in the great cities as effectively ders.

The announcement by Chief Jeanes that as if they were instigated or hired by them, the state constables are working on the investigation, ordered by Governor Maybank, pect that the demonstrations against negroes of the night riders who have beaten or are of Northern origin. That is the more threatened negroes is reassuring. Energetic reason that Southern fools should be stop- and skillful action should bring the public ped before they have done more harm to enemies of South Carolina to arrest and pun- South Carolina.

The best, the only, answer that South Carolina can make to the alien agitators who are striving to reduce the state to a prov- ishment. For these night riders are in a special and peculiar sense dangerous enemies to South Carolina. They serve the enemies of the ince to be policed by outsiders is to prove its



September 28, 1939

## **THERE'S NO NEED IN SOUTH CAROLINA FOR HOODED AND ROBED GANGS**

Hooded and robed men, in gangs, are reported to have ridden through the streets of Simpsonville, Fountain Inn and Belton recently, entering places of business operated by Negroes and otherwise molesting members of that race.

News stories suggest that one, or more, Negro men were struck by members of the bands but that, afterwards, it was impossible to secure any testimony from anybody who would admit having been a victim.

It seems, from reports published in The State today, that there has been some activity of this kind in and around Columbia. The Governor, it is said, has received many complaints. Some of these complaints, we feel sure, must have come from white people who do not condone such business.

While we have confidence in the good sense of the vast majority of the people of South Carolina and do not believe that such marauders will have much sympathy in this commonwealth it is pertinent to remark that there is no excuse for such lawlessness in South Carolina.

The decent people of the State should not countenance such hoodlumism anywhere. The entire force of organized government should be used to break it up. Those guilty of such offenses against the peace of the State should be apprehended, prosecuted and, if convicted, sentenced in accordance with law.

Instances such as those referred to in the paragraphs above are somewhat rare in South Carolina. There is absolutely no need of this State because the white people of the State have full control of the local governments and the machinery of the law.

In general, the relations between the members of the two races in South Carolina has improved considerably in the past decade. There has been no proper occasion for hooded mobs since the political control of this State was wrested from white scoundrels and Negro boobs many years ago by the decent white people of the State through the Democratic party.

The Times and Democrat has great sympathy for the members of the Negro race in South Carolina and wishes them well. At the same time it does not believe that the

best interests of the two races, at the present time, can be improved by any attempt on the part of Negroes, as a race, to assume control of the local governments in South Carolina. Happily, there is no sign whatever that the best Negroes of this State have any such desire.

Barring the necessity of redeeming this State from corrupt and inefficient government at the hands of a coalition of white scalawags and ignorant Negroes there is, and can be, no other excuse for tactics resembling those of the original and revered Ku Klux Klan. Any organization that, in the face of present good conditions, attempts to revive these tactics is a disgrace to the white people of South Carolina and an enemy to the improved understanding that is to be desired between the members of both races.

In expressing our view that the best interests of both races make it desirable that there be no bitter political contests between the two races, at the present stage of mutual development, we must not hesitate to make plain that the assumption of full power by the white people in this section makes it incumbent upon decent white people to assure all Negroes that they will have the benefits of the law.

So long as a Negro citizen of South Carolina leads a good life, conducts himself equitably and attempts by honest industry to improve his status and advance his fortune he is entitled to the full protection of the laws designed and intended to safeguard a good citizen in his life and property. This is an obligation that rests upon the white people of this State because the white people of the State have full control of the local governments and the machinery of the law.

There are thousands of good Negroes in South Carolina who deserve the assistance of good white people in their struggle to lead safe, comfortable and worthy lives. The so-called bad Negro is the exception, who does not have the support of the decent people of his own race. He is no justification for any action that tends to threaten, punish or intimidate good Negro citizens.

The better men and women of this State can get along, whether they belong to the white or Negro race and, what is more important, they can get along together. They have much in common. The success and happiness that one group seeks is dependent, in

part, upon the fortunes of the other. There is no reason why either group should allow the acts of misguided fanatics to mar the opportunity that the future presents for wholesome and helpful cooperation.

There are individuals, mostly outside of the South, who attempt for reasons of personal profit, to stir up enmity between the two races in this section.

The intelligent Negro, we believe, has sense enough to recognize this type of agitator and to appreciate that no good solution of the racial problem in this area can be attained except upon the basis of mutual agreement. There are not, we imagine, many Negroes in the South who nourish any idea whatever of attempts to use force to gain any goal.

There is a failure, we admit, in many Southern communities to develop a method of cooperation that would be far superior to the existing relationship but, in many cases, this failure is more apparent than real because of the unofficial avenues of contact that are available.

In the course of years the relationship between the two races in the South will be worked out upon a basis of equity and justice. How many years will be required in this process we have no idea but in the solution of the problem there is no place for hooded gangsters, white-robed hoodlums or monistic mobsters. Moreover, there is no place for agitators, amateur or professional, who would attempt to stir up bitterness and mislead a good-natured race into mistakenly assuming that it can, through pressure tactics, get that which is not willingly yielded to it.

KU KLUX KLAN- 1939

TEXAS

## CLAN'S REMOVAL TO TEX. HURTS GARNER

WASHINGTON, May 11. (ANP)—Removal of Ku Klux Klan headquarters from Atlanta to Texas, as reported last week, will not add to the pleasure of living in Texas, nor will it be a great boon to Vice-President Garner's campaign for President. However, disagreements reputedly between the imperial wizard, Hiram Evans and members of the organization, have brought about the proposed removal where the Klan hopes to rise to bigger things. The name of the new ~~governor~~ of Texas, W. Lee O'Daniel is prominently mentioned in the movement, it being reported that the Klan helped O'Daniel obtain the office of governor.

Bitter feuds have arisen in Texas following O'Daniel's election with Elliott Roosevelt, the President's son, calling O'Daniel a "second Hitler."

Negroes of the great Southwestern state are watching closely the contemplated move as the presence of the Klan in any section of the country bodes no good to minority groups, whether white or black.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

TEXAS

## Klan In Texas Threatens Newspaper and Civic Leader; Both Defv Hooded Order

HOUSTON, Texas (ANP).—"Nigger-be-careful—this-is the-white-man's-country," was the message received by The Houston Informer with the official seal of the Ku Klux Klan attached.

"The informer has been militant in its effort to secure the Negro's rights. This it will always be," was the front page answer the paper made to the threat.

A recent issue of Ken magazine made the sensational charge that Gov. W. Lee O'Daniel rode into office with Klan aid, and recently O'Daniel drew the state's wrath when he granted a 30-day reprieve to a Negro condemned to die for murder "in order to make him suffer more."

One week prior to receipt of the threatening letter, an effort was made to burn the Informer's plant down, but the attempt was foiled.

During the same period, Dr. R. T. Hamilton, Dallas civic leader, received a card warning him "to cease his efforts to secure passage of an 'equal education bill.'"

### NEGRO KILLS FOR OFFICE

#### Despite KKK Threats

HOUSTON, March—Not disturbed by a blazing cross burning on the lawn of his home, James B. Grigsby, first colored man in the history of this city to run for a seat on the Board of Education, pressed his campaign the harder this week. *3-30-39*

The burning of the cross in front of his home rallied the colored residents to his support and brought forth a denunciation from the Houston Post, morning daily, which denounced the act as "un-American".

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939  
Knoxville, Tenn., Journal  
September 13, 1939

## Negro Band Active But Losing Power

Apparently losing out after a series of arrests by city police and detectives, members of a Negro hoodlum band in East Knoxville were seeking new members last night as further acts of violence were reported, police said.

Police Sgt. E. C. Cline and Policeman Ted Blevins said a note warning "we kill" and signed "Black Shirt," was left at the home of Katie Hame, 715 Paddleford Street, yesterday.

Policemen P. S. Decker and F. F. Russell said two members of the hoodlum band forced their way into the home of Elizabeth Stone, 202 Exeter Street, but were frightened away by her screams.

Various outbreaks of lawlessness including acts of vandalism and scores of thefts have been laid to the hoodlum band.

More than 12 members have been bound to the Grand Jury or sent to the workhouse for alleged participation in the gang.

The note left at the Hame woman's home warned "Katie we will be after you tonight," and was signed Black Shirt.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal  
September 12, 1939

## 3 Are Charged In Drive On 'Black Shirts'

### Negroes Accused Of Theft, Loitering

Three more Negroes suspected of being members of the "Black Shirt" were brought before City Judge John L. Mynatt yesterday as police continued an extensive campaign against the East Knoxville hoodlums.

Ed Alford, alias Burnett, 19, of 511 Hudson Alley, was held to the Grand Jury under \$1000 bond on a charge of housebreaking and larceny and disposing of stolen property. It was charged he broke into the home of Ola Yancey,

TENNESSEE

## Kluxers Attempt New Set Up In Memphis; Meet Fight From Daily Press

Plainedge X-3-31  
Knoxville, Tenn., Journal  
MEMPHIS. — Will the Ku Klux Klan ride again in Memphis? is the question that was being asked on all sides this week, when the daily papers here discovered that the new National Organizer was in Memphis, seeking to add members to the old organization at "\$10 per head."

Plainedge X-3-31  
Fifteen years ago the Klan was a potent political influence in Memphis and spread terror and violence among various races and religions here, but an "outraged, enlightened citizenry started putting the screws on," stated the Commercial Appeal in its Sunday's edition.

Plainedge X-3-31  
One of the Commercial Appeal's most cherished possessions is a Pulitzer gold medal for "public service" in combating the Klan.

Plainedge X-3-31  
Post Office Inspectors here denied that any investigation of the Klan activities were underway, when it was discovered that the Klan had rented a U. S. Postoffice Box.

KLU KLUX KLAN- 1939

WASHINGTON

## LaFollette To Probe West Coast KKK

By Ellen McGrath

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

SEATTLE, Nov. 11.—Inquiry

into the flagrant violations of civil rights and the activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Bellingham, Wash., will be made by the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee. It was learned here today that Henry H. Fowler, chief counsel of the committee, arranged to turn the searchlight on the vigilante-ridden area, according to announcement by Edward Costigan, executive secretary of the Washington Commonwealth Federation.

## KKK Terror Spreads In Washington State

The committee has already set up headquarters in San Francisco and Los Angeles but extended their probe to the Northwest when startling information of a daring vigilante drive was placed in their hands by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, CIO affiliate.

The Maritime Federation prepared to resist the frontal attack on organized labor after A. E. Harding, secretary of Washington District Council, warned the "Better Business Builders" that the KKK were preparing their offensive on labor as a prelude to destruction of all civil rights in Washington State.

Superior Judge Olson aimed a death blow at civil rights when he granted a sweeping anti-picketing injunction on the grounds no labor dispute existed although the International Woodworkers of América, a CIO affiliate, were on strike against the anti-union policies of the Bloédel-Donovan Lumber Co.

### LABOR SPURS FIGHT

Undaunted by the concerted attack of reaction, the IWA is

carrying its fight not only into trade unions but throughout the entire community.

Petitions circulated throughout Whatcom County are calling upon Judge Olson to set aside his unprecedented decision and preparing to wage a determined defense of civil rights in the lumber-dominated town.

The plea for a LaFollette probe was made when an outbreak of violence was feared as CIO unionists refused to heed the warnings of city officials, who freely admitted the "night shirts" are mobilizing. The arrival of the LaFollette committee in the Pacific Northwest is expected to smoke the grand dragon out from his disguise and beat back the bold offensive on civil rights.

## KKK Terror Spreads In Washington State

Aberdeen, Wash. (CNA) — Long-brewing anti-labor hatred by vigilantes and the Ku Klux Klan which popped off last week with an attack on the Finnish Workers Hall is still raging and spreading here this week as maulrauding bands of terrorists speed through the streets with attacks on both AFL and CIO headquarters.

The spreading terrorism here began under the general smoke screen of Red-baiting and Anti-Soviet provocations and now, inevitable, are extending to all labor and progressive organizations and individuals.

12-14-39